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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the creation of a new Marianas Political Status Commission that will re-examine the CNMI's relationship with the United States?

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## INSIDE

### NATION



A 12-year-old New Mexico boy shoots and wounds two classmates.

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### ASIA



Gunshots ring out in the heart of Thailand's capital overnight.

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### LIFE & STYLE



A Filipina caregiver is the unlikely winner of Israel's The X Factor.

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## IN LAND COMPENSATION ISSUE:

# Some got paid up to \$4.4M; over 300 yet to see a penny

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Some CNMI landowners got paid anywhere between \$100,000 and \$4.4 million each in exchange for the government's taking of their property for public roads, ponding basin and wetlands, documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show. But while other families got hundreds of thousands or millions, an estimated 300 more landowners have yet to see even a penny after years or decades of waiting.

The government paid 138 landowners a total of almost \$28.5 million, with the money coming from a \$40 million bond that was floated supposedly to pay land

claims, Department of Public Lands records show.

The remaining \$11 million went to the construction of an adult prison in Susupe.

The latest partial payment was made to landowner Luisa Quitugua, amounting to \$1,838.95, in addition to a \$10,000 payment in November 2012.

Over \$4.410 million was paid to the "heirs" of a Kaipat matriarch for 5,607 square meters of land for a road project. The claim was certified in 1992.

The second highest payment, based on DPL records, is \$3.45 million that went to the "heirs" of a Maliti patriarch for the Marianas High School campus. DPL records don't show the land area and the date of the certification.

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### » Lawmakers seek list of those still waiting to get paid

Roxanne Diaz leaves DPH post

» Aldan named new public health director

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

After many years of leading the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health Division, Roxanne Diaz recently departed her post to pursue other goals.

The corporation has appointed Margaret Aldan in her stead. Aldan has been a division employee for many years and used to handle its maternal and child health program.

Both Aldan and corporation interim CEO Esther Muña were not available to provide comments when contacted yesterday.

Diaz confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday her resignation from the corporation. She filed her resigna-

See DIAZ on Page 4

## CMS lifts suspension on CHC lab certification

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services lifted on Tuesday the suspension of the certification of the Commonwealth Health Center's laboratory unit after finding that the hospital has successfully rectified all deficiencies the federal health agency identified during its September 2012 inspection.

CHCC hospital services administrator Jesse Tudela confirmed this with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, saying the CMS decision was sent Tuesday in a letter to corporation management.

It will be recalled that CHCC was notified by CMS in 2012 that the laboratory is at risk of having its CLIA certification revoked.

CLIA stands for Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, a federal

See CMS on Page 4



### FOR A BIGGER PARKING LOT

A contractor operates a backhoe yesterday as part of an ongoing parking lot expansion and improvement project at the back of the governor's office building on Capital Hill, using capital improvement project funding.

Gov. Inos now out of hospital. PAGE 2  
2 hurt in car crash in Gualo Rai. PAGE 3

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



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# Local

## Gov. Inos now out of hospital

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos was discharged yesterday from the Commonwealth Health Center after he was admitted Monday for what the administration said was "flu-like symptoms."

"He is out, but worked from home," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Despite the governor's hospitalization during a flu



Inos

season, the administration said the governor is in good spirits and continued to review and sign off on pertinent documents.

Lawmakers said they wish the governor to get well soon.

The governor, who was on Rota over the weekend along with some officers of the Republican Party, has also been undergoing dialysis treatment but the administration and his supporters said this has not hampered his ability to lead the CNMI.

## BOE forms attendance review committee to address truancy

The Board of Education is tightening its policy on truancy and has created a panel that will mainly provide intervention for juveniles and their families. Truancy is the action of staying away from school without good reason, or absenteeism.

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero disclosed yesterday that a "School Attendance Review Committee" is now in place pursuant to the public law that created the "Juvenile Justice Act of 2008," or Public Law 16-47.

The new panel is composed of a parent of a school-age child and representatives of the Public School System, the Coalition of Private Schools, the juvenile probation unit of the Division of Youth Services, the children protective unit of DYS and the Department of Public Safety.

"This is another venue for PSS to provide intervention for juveniles and their families to address truancy, irregularly attendance or insubordinate or disorderly behavior in school at the community level before referral to the juvenile justice system," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Among the duties of the new panel include proposing, promoting, and providing alternatives to the juvenile justice system. It is also tasked to address matters regarding an individual juvenile's truancy, failure to regularly attend school, or insubordination or disorderly behavior.

The committee shall also set meetings with juveniles and/or their parents to talk about the consequences of students' truancy or behavior and establish terms, conditions, and options

to reduce and eliminate the truancy. This meeting will be more of a mediation and not adversarial.

The panel is also expected to refer juveniles and their families to other agencies such as the Community Guidance Center, DYS, DPS, and the Attorney General's Office for services or action, as appropriate.

Guerrero hopes the committee would look into the case of students who are referred to the Alternative Education Program and Lina'la' Malawasch Academy at Marianas High School and Hopwood Junior High School, respectively.

"There are students at both AEP and LMA that are clients of DYS and are regularly monitored by DYS officials at those places," he said.

He explained that the panel does have the authority to summon juveniles and their parents to meet with the committee.

Guerrero said the issue of truancy and the need to create the panel was brought to his attention last year pursuant to the mandates of the Juvenile Justice Act of 2008.

"There is much that needs to be done including the SARC members to know their duties and responsibilities and to work with the Public School System. Standard operating procedures need to be established on how to make referral to the committee, etc.," he said.

Guerrero has recommended to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan to invite the panel members to the next principals' and program managers' meetings. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)

## Cody, Camacho to represent Rotary in district conference

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be sending incoming president Richard Cody and community service director Reina Camacho to the Rotary International District Conference next month in Tokyo, Japan.

Rotary president Laila Y. Boyer made the announcement on Tuesday during their weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The Rotary International District 2750 Conference is from Feb. 26 to 27 at the Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa in Tokyo, Japan.

Representatives of nine Rotary Club groups under District 2750 will be attending the event. The Rotary Club of Saipan is part of the Pacific Basin Group, which also includes Guam, Palau, Chuuk, and Pohnpei.

In other news, the local Rotary Club will be holding an invitation-only open house on

Jan. 28 during its weekly meeting at the Hyatt.

Boyer said the "open house" is in line with Rotary International's philosophy of expanding the membership of the civic group. During the event, those invited are expected to learn more about what Rotary is, what it stands for, and the activities it does throughout the course of the year.

The Rotary president also emphasized that those invited will not be given "automatic membership" as they would still have to be sponsored into the group.

Community service director Reina Camacho, meanwhile, announced that the local Rotary Club will be holding a mini-fundraiser on Feb. 8, dubbed "Love on the Run."

The pre-Valentine's event will involve running and biking and is being promoted as a family event. (*Mark Rabago*)



MARK RABAGO

## MEI unveils expanded optical showroom

Marianas Eye Institute CEO Russ Quinn, second from right, and founder Dr. David Khorram, right, join Rep. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. acting CEO Esther Muna and CNMI Medicaid Program administrator Helen Sablan in cutting the ribbon that officially unveiled MEI's expanded showroom yesterday at the company's office in Garapan.

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marianas Eye Institute held a grand opening for its expanded optical showroom yesterday at its Garapan location, with company CEO Russ Quinn and founder Dr. David Khorram taking turns explaining how the renovation will ultimately benefit its clientele and the community.

Quinn said the company began the renovation, which cost \$75,000, in August 2013 and that it took about eight weeks to be completed.

"We basically took two exam rooms out of play and extended and doubled the size of our showroom. We went from displaying about 400 frames to now we're up to 1,200 frames. We're just hoping to get more choices for people and update and modernize our facility."

Khorram said that increasing the size of their showroom two-fold and tripling the number of frames in its inventory now gives MEI the title of having the "widest selection of frames in the whole region."

"We work hard to have a price range for everyone. We have the high-end designer frames like Ferragamo, Fen-



MARK RABAGO

Marianas Eye Institute founder Dr. David Khorram said MEI will continue to emphasize diabetic eye care because it remains the leading cause of blindness in the CNMI.

di, and Calvin Klein and we also have budget frames for people who are not looking for that level of cost but they're still high quality. We also still provide one-year warranty on all of them," said Khorram.

MEI also continues to offer the ultimate budget-saver: an eye examination, a frame, and lenses for just \$77.

"A few years ago we tried to meet the challenge a lot of people were having, which is to get affordable glasses. We found a vendor to help us with the \$77 pair—lenses, frames, and everything. So we still continue to have that and we found that

there's been a positive response to that. We're happy to be able to do that."

Khorram said the other thing that is a big emphasis for MEI is diabetic eye care because it remains the leading cause of blindness in the CNMI.

"A few years ago we opened the Center for Advance Diabetic Eye Care, which brought over several key pieces of equipment that allow us to provide the most advance level of service for eye care available. This is a big challenge since a lot of people just don't know that when they have diabetes they need to have their eye examined every year

to prevent the loss of vision that comes with it. There are some new drugs that we're using that help reverse some of the visual loss. So that's something that is only offered here."

A couple of years back, MEI joined the Diabetic Clinical Research Network, which is under the National Institute of Health. The network is made up of some 200 clinics, academics, and private practice clinics in the U.S. and a few centers abroad that work together to do controlled-trials for diabetic eye research.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony officially unveiled the expanded showroom yesterday, followed by lunch of healthy dishes.

The event was attended by several lawmakers, among them Reps. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), Christopher Deleon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), and Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan).

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. acting CEO Esther Muña, CNMI Medicaid Program administrator Helen Sablan, and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation director Arlene Kay A. Yamagata also graced the ribbon-cutting rites.

# Evidence linking Crisostomo to another murder is disallowed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an order yesterday granting Joseph A. Crisostomo's motion to bar the introduction of evidence linking him to the murder of a Chinese woman at Lao Lao Beach in 2006.

Camacho said the probative value of the proposed evidence is outweighed by the risk of unfair prejudice to Crisostomo, and the undue delay that would occur if such

evidence is introduced.

"The law requires that such proposed evidence be excluded," said Camacho.

Crisostomo is facing charges of kidnapping, murder, and other offenses in connection with the killing of bartender Emerita Romero, whose body was found at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012. His trial will start on April 7, 2014.

The Office of the Attorney General filed in August a notice that it intends to introduce evidence showing that Crisostomo

kidnapped, murdered, and robbed Bao Ying Chen in November 2006. The OAG wants to do this to prove Crisostomo's identity in Romero's case, arguing that the similarities between the 2006 acts and the crimes charged in Romero's case indicate that Crisostomo has a modus operandi.

Crisostomo, through counsel Janet H. King, asked the court to exclude evidence of this alleged

2006 murder, noting that he was never charged but was only investigated as a suspect.

King argued, among other things, that the 2006 evidence is of low probative value as the similarities alleged

are not unique, nor will they be supported by evidence.

In granting the motion, Camacho cited a precedent case that states that a "defendant is never on trial for who

he is, but rather, the trial process seeks to determine what, if anything, he did."

Camacho said he is persuaded by Crisostomo's arguments that the similarities between the alleged 2006 acts and the crimes charged are not unique.

"There are some similarities between the two homicides; for example, both victims were women whose bodies were found in uninhabited areas. However, there are also differences," Camacho said, citing that Romero was fully clothed and found at the for-

mer La Fiesta Mall, while Chen was found naked at Lao Lao Beach.

Instead of weighing the evidence in the case at hand, Camacho said the jury would likely rely on a belief that Crisostomo is a bad person with a propensity to kill people and thus deserves punishment.

"Such inferences are forbidden and go against fundamental principles of our legal system," said Camacho.

Additionally, Camacho said, introducing the proposed evidence will unduly delay the trial.

## Man slapped with 10-year sentence for wire theft, burglary conspiracy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sonny Babauta, a 21-year-old man convicted of conspiring with others to steal copper wires and other items from a warehouse in Afetnas, was slapped yesterday with a 10-year prison sentence.

Babauta was ordered to immediately start serving his sentence. He was given credit for time served.

"Law-abiding citizens of the CNMI cry out for justice against the plague of thefts, burglaries, and robberies," said Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

The judge said he imposed the full maximum sentence of 10 years because justice requires an effective deterrence.

For two counts of burglary, Babauta was sentenced each to the full maximum of 10 years in prison. For two counts of conspiracy to commit burglary, he was sentenced each to the full maximum of 10 years in prison. For two counts of theft, he was sentenced each to the full maximum of five years in prison. For two counts of conspiracy to commit theft, he was sentenced each to the full maximum of five years in prison. The total maximum sentence as to all charges is 60 years in prison.

Camacho ordered all sentences to run concurrently, which means Babauta will serve just 10 years, to be served without the possibility of parole, proba-



Camacho

tion, early release, work release, weekend release, or any other similar program.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField had recommended a 15-year sentence without parole, while defense counsel Joaquin Torres recommended a sentence of 5 to 7 years in prison with the possibility of parole.

Babauta and his mother, who cried, begged the court for leniency.

Camacho said there can be no justice without appropriate punishment. He said Babauta and three others conspired and broke into the victim's premises not once but twice on the same night.

The judge said Babauta and his co-conspirators stole and destroyed thousands of dollars

worth of property, which they sold for a grand total of \$120.

"What did these defendants do after all this destruction? Did the defendants buy milk for a starving baby? No. Did the defendants buy medicine for a sick child? No. The defendants split the money in front of a poker parlor and went in to play on the poker machines," he said.

A jury found Babauta guilty of all charges on Nov. 29, 2013.

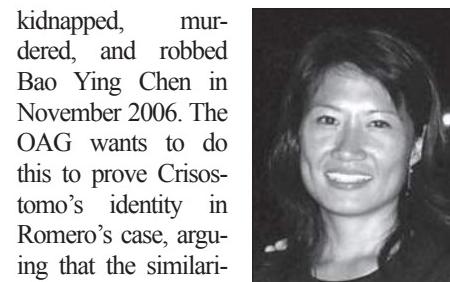
Babauta's three co-conspirators—Jeffrey Lizama, Matthias Salisban, and Fiden Hamo—all pleaded guilty to burglary as part of a plea deal with the government.

## 2 hurt in car crash in Gualo Rai

Two persons were injured when their car was hit by another vehicle near a lane blockage at a road construction site along Middle Road in front of Taro Sue Store in Gualo Rai yesterday morning.

The driver and his female passenger were brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for minor injuries.

The female driver of the car that hit the victims' vehicle was cited for driving with an expired driver's license, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst.



King

Camacho has already sentenced Lizama and Salisban to the full maximum term of 10 years in prison. Hamo was sen-

tenced to five years in prison for his role in the burglary and for throwing rocks at a house in a separate case.

According to the prosecution, the four men twice entered the Han Nam warehouse, formerly known as the

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## Senate sends revenue-generating bills to governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Besides adopting a resolution asking President Barack Obama to delay a proclamation withholding conveyance to the CNMI of submerged lands surrounding five CNMI islands, the Senate also passed Wednesday afternoon House Bill 18-159 that amends the Commonwealth Insurance Act of 1983 to provide for a premium rate review process. Senators also passed revenue-generating bills now headed to the governor for action.

The Senate passed House Bill 18-132, House Draft 1, raising the penalty fine for businesses

failing to provide sales receipts by up to \$1,000.

Businesses not issuing receipts get to pay reduced taxes for not reporting their actual sales, resulting in revenue loss for the government.

Once this revenue-generating bill becomes law, the new fines for not issuing receipts to customers will be \$250, \$750, and \$1,500.

The third violation will trigger an automatic revocation of the business license for six months.

In addition to revising the Sales Receipts Act, Rep. Chris-

topher Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) bill also allows the Department of Finance to issue cease and desist orders that are effective even before an administrative is conducted.

Senators also passed Rep. John Paul Sablan's (Cov-Saipan) HB 18-160, establishing the exit of the U.S. Post Office as an official customs point of entry.

Once this revenue-generating and enforcement bill becomes law, the Division of Customs Service under Finance will have the authority to inspect packages and other mails reasonably

suspected of containing taxable goods or contraband, at the Post Offices after they were released from USPS custody.

Senators also adopted floor leader Ray Yumul's (Ind-Saipan) resolution requesting the Commonwealth Government Employees Credit Union to pay out approximately 300 members that asked to withdraw their funds at the credit union.

Also adopted was Sen. Pete Reyes' (Ind-Saipan) resolution asking Gov. Eloy S. Inos to allocate funds from the Federal Transit Authority grant to the CNMI Office of Transit Authority to buy two 66-passenger school buses for the Public School System.

**Hazmat delays Cabras Marine's move**

**GUAM (Pacific News Center)**—Hazardous materials left behind by Guam Shipyard are causing delays in getting Cabras Marine moved into the space previously occupied by Guam Shipyard.

NAVFAC Marianas spokesperson Bill Austin confirmed for PNC News that Cabras Marine has not been able to move into the Ship Repair Facility.

The deadline to move in was last December, but because of hazardous materials left behind by Guam Shipyard, Austin says

there's been a delay. Austin notes that the cleanup and removal of materials left behind is now being handled by a contractor. He adds that the materials left behind are typical industrial materials.

Cabras Marine was awarded the \$77 million dollar Ship Repair Facility contract last October.

The move came just a few weeks after Guam Shipyard lost a lawsuit in District Court seeking reimbursement from two insurance companies for damage to its dry dock.

## CMS

From Page 1

regulatory standard that applies to all clinical lab testing performed on humans in the U.S. The objective of CLIA is to ensure the accuracy, reliability and timeliness of test results regardless of where the test was performed.

Last month, a CMS-CLIA team was on island to validate the corrective measures the corporation has implemented at the CHC laboratory.

"We're very happy and proud of this latest decision from CMS. What this means is that our CLIA certification is no longer at risk and the unit is now allowed to perform laboratory services," said Tudela.

CMS conducts CLIA inspections every two years. The latest decision is for the lab's CLIA certification for 2012-2014. The next inspection—for 2014-2016—is expected this summer.

CHC's laboratory department has 19 personnel. It has a new lab director, Dr. Phillip Dauterman, who also temporarily serves as the unit's lab manager.

Tudela said the lack of a lab director has been a major concern for CMS. This position has been vacant for many years.

For the vacant lab manager position, the U.S. Commissioned Corps is helping look for a qualified person for the job. The group, Tudela said, is working with the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Human Health Services.

There are also two other unfilled positions at the unit: 2 clinical lab scientists.

Tudela said that CMS-CLIA is aware of this and has acknowledged the hospital's efforts to fill these vacancies. Other than that, each and every concerns raised by CMS-CLIA has been resolved, he added.

Tudela praised the commitment and hard work of laboratory staff and the hospital management for making this happen for CHC.

When CMS was on island in September, they did a separate survey of the hospital for its "Hospital Condition of Participation" and one for the Dialysis for ESRD (End Stage Renal Disease) "Facility Conditions of Participation."

CMS has yet to render its decision on the hospital's Condition of Participation.

Had CHC lost its CLIA certification, it would have affected the hospital's recertification with CMS. Back in 2012, CLIA was close to revoking CHCC's certification and that would have resulted in CHCC not being able to operate its laboratory for at least two years.

As the agency responsible for the health and wellness of the people of the CNMI, it would be detrimental if CHC cannot operate a laboratory and be able to guarantee that services would be available to the hospital and its patients, including those with Medicare and Medicaid as their primary payer.

two years," she said.

Diaz leaves the division with key and innovative initiatives in place that will impact the health of the island people for years to come. She hopes the corporation will continue to prioritize these initiatives for 2014 and beyond.

"There is great need to improve the health and welfare of our people and for that, I am still very committed to serving my dear people of the Commonwealth and also plan to continue doing public health work," she assured.

The Division of Public Health Services is composed of five bureaus and has over 20 programs and services. It has 109 employees on Saipan, Rota and Tinian and is primarily funded by federal grants from the Department of Health & Human Services.

## Over \$1 million a year for sports facilities in Guam

**HAGATNA, Guam**—Sports facilities in the villages and the schools are about to get a cash infusion for repairs and upgrades, thanks to Gov. Eddie Calvo. On Monday, Sen. Tommy Morrison and Sen. Chris Duenas met with Calvo who directed his Cabinet to establish a special fund required by law that will provide over \$1 million per year in regular funding for school and village sports facilities.

The fund will address deferred maintenance at the island's sports facilities due to

funding constraints the past decade.

"I am pleased that Governor Calvo has worked with us in establishing this fund, as it will provide over a million dollars in funding for these facilities every single year moving forward," Morrison said.

The newly established funding source is derived from proceeds associated with legal limited gaming, and will be split among the village mayors, the Department of Education, and the Department of Parks and Recreation

for sports facilities repairs and upgrades.

According to Duenas, the catalyst of the public law was to provide a dedicated funding source for the maintenance of the island's sports facilities, and provide better community facilities for students, athletes, and families.

"We wanted to finally fix this problem. Our youth and families deserve better facilities from their government. This funding source will provide quality and well-maintained facilities," Duenas said. (PR)

ponding basin.

Two other lots in Dandan, this time belonging to a Camacho family, were also used for a ponding in exchange for \$760,032.57. That claim was certified also in 2003, involving 7,384 square meters of land.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), House Ways and Means Committee chairman, said that based on his understanding, there is supposed to be priority category when it comes to who gets paid first—right-of-way (road), ponding basin, and wetland.

"But records provided show that that was not necessarily followed," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Eleven payments were for ponding basins, and three were for wetlands. A few were for parking space. Most were for roads or right-of-way.

On Tuesday, the House Committees on Ways and Means and Natural Resources brought together department heads to shed light on the land compensation program. They also invited landowners, many of whom claim they have not received any payment from the government in exchange for their property.

### Smallest amounts

The smallest amount paid throughout the years is \$482.76 for an Ichihara family in Afetna for the government's 1999 taking of 4 square meters of property as part of a road project. There's also over \$20 million in unpaid land claims for Rota.

This is followed by a pay-

ment of \$1,927.59 to a Palacios family, also in Afetna, for a 1995 road project.

At least 18 landowners got paid less than \$10,000.

The CNMI government's land compensation program began in 1978, many of them for right-of-way or road projects.

### Tinian, Rota

Out of 138 landowners that have received payments, only one was for a Tinian property and 18 on Rota.

Based on DPL records, the only paid land claim on Tinian belonged to a Quichocho family involving 148 square meters for \$23,369.51, for a road project. The claim was certified in 2004.

On Rota, the payments for lots used by the government ranged from \$4,317.30 to \$183,369.69.

Many of the Rota land compensations involved those for use of the Northern Marianas College's Rota campus.

Lawmakers said the task at hand is to come up with revenue-generating measures to help pay land claims. Pending bills and initiatives are also under review to help set aside funds for these land claims, including using interest incomes on public land-related investments.

The Legislature is supposed to appropriate funds for land compensation.

DPL said there's over \$83 million in unpaid land claims on Saipan alone, although this figure is subject to further review. There's also over \$20 million in unpaid land claims for Rota.

## DIAZ

From Page 1

tion letter on Dec. 17 and last reported for work on Dec. 30.

Diaz served the then-Department of Public Health in various capacities including executive assistant to the secretary of Public Health, spokesperson for the agency, and analyst, among other positions.

In an interview yesterday, Diaz said she had the opportunity to work with a reliable team at the Public Health Division.

"I worked with a great team and staff at the Division of Public Health Services and although we faced great challenges during the DPH-CHCC transition, we pulled through together as a team and we were able to achieve significant milestones and accomplishments the past

A Cabrera family received an over \$2.768 million payment for 11,815 square meters of public lands in Chalan Piao for a wetland project. That claim was certified in 1991.

Sablan Enterprises Inc. got over \$2.645 million for five different lots in As Lito, Chalan Piao, and Puerto Rico for roads and sewer treatment projects. The claims were certified between 1990 and 1992.

An Ichihara family got paid over \$2.096 million in exchange for 22,664 square meters of land in San Vicente for a ponding basin. The claim was certified in year 2000.

### Shedding light

Rep. Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said the DPL list sheds light on where the \$28 million payments went.

Benavente said the committee will continue to go over the records.

He said his committee, along with the Ways and Means Committee, will also be asking DPL to provide a list of landowners with claims that remain unpaid.

House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) has also asked both committees to seek such list of unpaid claims from DPL.

Both Dela Cruz and Benavente said they would also like

to find out why others got paid so much more than the rest, while others were not even paid a penny.

Dela Cruz said the government should strive for a "proportionate" distribution of funds for land claims.

The vice speaker said "politics of the past" played a part in the disproportionate or the lack of payment for landowners.

A Sablan family received more than \$1.958 million for the government's use of their 20,892 square meters of land in Chalan Laulau for a wetland. The claim was certified in 1991.

For their 34 square meters of land in Afetna used by the government for a road project, a Palacios family got paid over \$1.927 million, and that was for a claim certified in 1995.

A Nicholas family was paid over \$1.166 million for 9,461 square meters of Fina Sisu property for a wetland. The claim was certified in 2000.

### Hundreds of thousands

At least 28 landowners got paid anywhere between \$100,000 and \$760,000-plus.

Among them was a Tenorio family whose 1,229 square meters of property in Dandan was used for a ponding basin and got paid \$126,500 for it. The claim was certified in 2003.

Another Tenorio family, whose claim was also certified only in 2003, was compensated \$300,000 for two lots totaling 2,921 square meters in Dandan. That was also for a

# Higher insurance premium deduction in effect end of Jan.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Retirees and government employees who elect to remain under an extended contract with health insurance carrier Aetna International will start paying the new rate at the end of this month.

NMI Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan made this known to Fund members in a memorandum Monday, announcing that the new premium rates during the extended term will take effect Jan. 31, 2014.

The Inos administration recently approved a two-month extension of Aetna's contract as the health insurance provider under the government's Group Health and Life Insur-

ance Program. The extension is up to Feb. 28.

The extended contract comes with a higher premium for members, equivalent to a 40-percent increase over the 2013 rates.

The CNMI government pays a 50-percent share of the health insurance policy; the other half is paid by Fund members.

"The Aetna International health insurance coverage deductible restarts every calendar year. As such, the deductible for the 60-day extension will be \$300 for single; \$600 for couple; and \$900 for family," according to Pangelinan. The amounts are applicable to both active members and retirees.

Pangelinan earlier said the Aetna contract was extended

to give the Executive Branch more time to find an alternate health insurance policy that would be in the best interest of the members and the government.

If Aetna is again selected as the official health insurance provider for 2014, Pangelinan said the amounts paid by members and retirees toward their deductibles during the extension period will be credited to their deductible under the new policy beginning March 1, 2014.

For example, if a member paid \$150 in deductibles during the extension period, if Aetna continues to be the health care provider, the \$150

they have already paid will be credited toward the applicable deductible amount under the new policy.

The Group Health Life Insurance Program is a benefit program of the government that is administered by the Retirement Fund administrator.

Fund records show that there are approximately 2,400 individuals who benefits from this program.

Based on the new premium rate, active employees will be charged a higher amount. From the existing premium rate of \$82.45 for a single member, the amount would go

up to \$113.17 in January and February—or \$30.72 more in out-of-pocket cost.

For active employees who are classified as couple, the new rate is \$231.92, which is \$62.90 higher than the previous \$169.02.

Those with family will see an increase of \$98.30 on their premium—from \$263.83 to \$362.13.

For a single retiree, his/her share will go up to \$122.60 from the existing \$89.32—an increase of \$33.28; for

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couples, the new rate will go up from \$183.10 to \$251.32, which is \$68.22 higher.

For retiree family, the previous \$285.81 share will go up to \$392.31—an increase of \$106.50.

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## Johnson's counsels given until Jan. 22 to file unified petition for fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A settlement agreement has yet to be reached in Betty Johnson's petitions for multi-million-dollar payments for attorneys' fees and costs and discussions are continuing.

At a telephone conference yesterday morning, the parties in Johnson's class action informed U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood that they continue to be in discussions on the attorneys' fees and costs issue.

According to the minutes of the conference, Tydingco-Gatewood discussed with the parties the submission of a "unified" attorneys' fees petition.

The judge gave Johnson's counsels no later than Jan. 22, 2014, to submit a unified petition. A telephone status conference will be held on the following day, Jan. 23.

Tydingco-Gatewood allowed the CNMI government

to file its response no later than Jan. 27, 2014. Another telephone status conference will be held the following day, Jan. 28.

The judge set an evidentiary hearing on the petition for fees on Jan. 31, 2014.

In an order issued Friday, Tydingco-Gatewood told the parties' counsels that they should be prepared to advise the court whether they have reached a resolution of their petitions for attorneys' fees.

The parties' counsels reportedly conducted a two-day settlement talks before Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris on Monday and Tuesday.

Johnson's original counsel, Bruce Jorgensen, is demanding at least \$18.6 million. Her other counsels: Bronster Hoshibata is seeking \$17.5 million; Timothy Lord is asking for either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million; and Stephen Woodruff is requesting for \$2.9 million.

## Japan inks carbon offset deal with Palau

Japan has signed an agreement with Palau to allow Japanese companies to earn carbon credits by helping the small Pacific island cut greenhouse gas emissions, the Japanese government said on Monday.

Under the deal, both nations will set up a joint committee of representatives to operate a bilateral offset crediting mechanism, known as the Joint Crediting Mechanism, Tokyo said in a statement.

Japan has already has nine such bilateral agreements, aiming to bypass the lengthy screening process of the United Nations' Clean Development Mechanism, the world's main carbon offsetting scheme.

Its existing agreements are with Mongolia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, the Maldives, Vietnam, Laos

and Costa Rica.

Palau is among the small island nations in the Pacific that have been threatened by rising sea levels and are considered to be most at threat from the consequences of global warming.

Japan wants credits earned under these bilateral agreements to count towards its targets for reducing its heat-trapping emissions, although this has yet to be formally endorsed at U.N. climate negotiations.

Tokyo faced criticism at last year's climate talks in Warsaw for scaling back its 2020 target to a 3.8 percent cut in emissions from 2005 levels.

The lower target could cut Japan's demand for carbon credits, though it could still help Japanese firms such as Mitsubishi Research Institute Inc. export their low-carbon technology. (Reuters)

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# Will fleeing home be the last resort as climate changes?

By JASPREET KINDRA  
IRIN NEWS

**KAROR, Palau**—Salustiano Albert has lived in Palau, an archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean comprising over 500 islands, for more than three decades. Part of his family home, where three generations live, used to be flooded regularly by the tides, but in the past few years his entire house has been inundated. They survive by selling steamed sticky cakes made from taro root cooked with coconut, and have been dipping into their limited savings to repair the damage. Relocating is not an option. “This is my home,” he says firmly. “We just cope... and carry on.”

Like many other Micronesian states, Palau is extremely vulnerable to rising sea levels and storm surges - several islands are less than a meter above sea level. In other low-lying countries like Bangladesh, people have become used to the idea of moving, but “planned relocation” evokes strong feelings in this part of the Pacific.

Palau gained independence from the United States in 1994 and signed the Compact of Free Association, which will run until 2044. Under this agreement, the US provides substantial financial assistance to Palau, whose nationals can also travel to the US with relative ease and work there. Almost everyone has a family member in the US, but no one talks about moving there permanently.

Louis Josephs (not his real name) worked as a U.S. coast guard for several years. Palauans volunteer for the U.S. military at a higher rate than in any U.S. state, according to testimony by Edgard Kagan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. But when Josephs decided to call it a day, he went “home to Palau.”

He has always been a sailor and is aware of the climatic threat to his country, yet invested all his savings in a motorboat. “Our cultural ties to our land and way of life are very strong,” Josephs says, gazing at the startling blue sea. “We have protected these lands from big mining corporations and kept it green. It is pure and untouched. I grew up in this sea and I would like to be buried here, with my people in my land. I don’t want anything else from life.”

## Move or sink

People in neighboring islands like Kiribati and Tuvalu are being forced to move away from the constantly encroaching sea. Planning for possible dual citizenship, shopping for land, and providing new skills so their people can get jobs in another country are among the policy decisions that confront low-lying countries and islands.

But many Pacific islanders feel like Josephs. Tony de Brum, the Minister in Assistance to the President of the Marshall Islands, told IRIN that the idea of planned relocation is not even being considered. “If we do that, it will be an admittance of failure in our part,” on two counts - adaptation and global mitigation efforts.

## “Refugee” status unwanted

The perception that all small island states and low-lying countries are lobbying for “climate refugee” status in the developed world is not true. At the last climate talks held under the UN Climate Change



Salustiano Albert cannot even consider moving.

JASPREET KINDRA/IRIN

Convention on Climate Change, in Poland in 2013, the term “planned relocation” was removed from the text dealing with a new approach, called the Warsaw International Mechanism, which will consider loss and damage caused by climate change.

“Planned relocation only appears under ‘Adaptation’, which is often interpreted as happening at the national level [within the country],” said Koko Warner, a scientist at the UN University and an author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II, which covers impacts, adaptation and vulnerability.

“Loss and damage might be interpreted as those negative climate impacts that exceed a country’s ability to mitigate and adapt... Some countries expressed reservations about the idea of having planned relocation in the text on loss and damage, since these countries (especially small island states) have hardly contributed to dangerous climate change, but would be asked to concede significant things like administration of viable populations and habitable territory—both key parts of sovereignty,” Warner pointed out.

But on the shores of many small island states a new reality has already arrived. The Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, which saw planned relocation as last resort, is now reconsidering its decision.

This follows a recent consultation between the Pacific islands and the Nansen Initiative, the global effort to examine the protection of “climate refugees.”

This follows recent discussions between the Pacific islands and the Nansen Initiative, a global effort to examine the protection of “climate refugees.” Any planned relocation to another country would have to define the legal status of the relocated community in the new state; help communities adapt to local customs and laws; include consultation with potential host communities; and help the diaspora community maintain their cultural ties, e.g., by allowing dual citizenship.

## Need for the UN forum

Countries and experts have been lobbying at the UNFCCC process for recognition of climate change-related migration issues, so as to access funds and technical support provided by vari-

ous mechanisms, some of which are still being negotiated.

Even activists who do not have much faith in the UN process concede the need to source public funding. This includes people like Scott Leckie, who set up Displacement Solutions, a Geneva-based NGO that supports refugees and internally displaced persons, and helps governments plan for the relocation of people displaced by climatic events.

Leckie regularly advises a number of UN agencies on housing and land matters. He believes everyone on earth is entitled to housing, land and property rights under international and domestic human rights law, and that these should

allocated toward adaptation measures... with clear earmarks for land-based solutions to climate displacement,” Leckie says.

## Not easy

It is a tremendous task, as Leckie and DS discovered in 2008 when they tried to help people from Papua New Guinea’s Carteret islands, about 80km north of neighboring Bougainville island. DS found privately owned fertile land in Bougainville, which the owner was willing to sell at a low price, but the money did not arrive in time. Now, “a handful of Carteret islanders have relocated to Bougainville, while hundreds of families barely eke out an existence on their social lives.”

people displaced by climatic events, who wish to move voluntarily.

Countries will need technical expertise, which the UNFCCC process could provide. A joint report on loss and damage, produced in 2013 by the NGOs CARE, ActionAid and the World Wide Fund for Nature, suggests that a specific working group on migration, displacement and relocation should take up the issue, said Sven Harmeling, the Climate Change Advocacy Coordinator for CARE. This would be done when a two-year work plan starts as part of the elaboration of the Warsaw mechanism, he added.

Scientists like Warner, and aid workers like Harjeet Singh, ActionAid’s international coordinator for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, refer people who question the link between climate change and migration to research underlining the connection.

Warner led a series of scientific studies detailing loss and damage from a changing climate, which is forcing many people in the developing world to move, and says they found that few households were able to use migration as an adaptation measure. Existing policy responses to migration were more supportive of people with skills and not those “migrating from a position of great vulnerability and who face climate-related, non-temporary problems.”

Singh cites an ActionAid study in Bangladesh, in which men from at-risk communities, “who move on a seasonal basis in search of employment in urban areas, are now extending their stay due to climate change impacts. Poor people tend to lack the resources and social networks to plan migration. They spend more time away from their families, which has adverse impacts on their social lives.”



Many of Palau’s more than 500 islands are less than a meter above the Pacific Ocean.

JASPREET KINDRA/IRIN

form the core component of development, with the enforcement of domestic laws and policies to resolve climate displacement.

With the help of jurists he has developed a global framework based on these principles, called the Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement. He hopes any displaced person would be able to use the principles to hold their government accountable.

But securing these rights requires funding. “Funds need to be urgently

increasingly threatened island home,” Leckie said.

DS has had some success in Bangladesh, where it has been working for several years with local organizations, in particular Young Power for Social Action, based in the country’s second largest city, Chittagong. In 2013 they identified parcels of land safe from erosion and with access to social services. They intend to conduct a feasibility study and present it to the local authorities, with a formal request to resettle

Ultimately, resolving “climate displacement remains a question of will,” says Leckie. “Generating this will across all political parties, ideologies, countries of differing levels of wealth, and social and economic development... is a task all of those who care about the rights of climate-displaced people must now embrace with conviction and vigor.”

Source: <http://www.irinnews.org/report/99470/will-fleeing-home-be-the-last-resort-as-the-climate-changes>

# Sablan statement on retirement of Rep. George Miller

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) issued the following statement on the announcement that Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) will be retiring at the end of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

“George Miller’s knowledge of policy and politics and his leadership in the U.S. House of Infant’s skull fractured; Castro to be charged with her killing

**GUAM (Pacific News Center)**—The man accused of killing his girlfriend’s 23-month-old daughter will be charged with aggravated murder, aggravated assault and child abuse, according to the magistrate report released yesterday.

Guam police arrested 31-year-old John Jesse Tudela Castro on Tuesday and booked him on a murder charge following an autopsy of the girl on Monday. Medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola concluded that the child’s death was a homicide.

The magistrate report reveals that the baby girl had a contusion on her head, which an x-ray showed was a fracture to her skull. The report also shows that the baby girl had bruises to her face and lower and upper back, and to her left knee. In addition, her small intestines had been ruptured and her liver was lacerated “as a result of blunt force trauma.”

And there were contusions to the girl’s forehead, and multiple contusions to the back of her head that “occurred several days before

## Over 20 Girls Scouts to take part in paper craft project

Soroptimist International Northern Mariana Islands’ first-ever community project with the Girls Scouts of the CNMI will push through this Sunday at Room 604 of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Jill Arenovski, the president of the local chapter of the Soroptimist group, expects more than 20 Girls Scouts to attend the scrapbook-making activity they have this weekend.

She hopes a handful of Soroptimist volunteers will also show up for the event, which she promises will be an enjoyable time for everyone.

### Light Truck Delivery Driver

Delivery truck drivers transport, and drop off packages and small shipments within a local region or urban area. They drive trucks with a 26,000-pound gross vehicle weight (GVW) capacity or less. Most of the time, they transport merchandise from a distribution center to businesses and households. Load and unload their cargo. Report any incidents they encounter on the road to a dispatcher. Follow all applicable traffic laws. Report serious mechanical problems to the appropriate personnel. Keep their truck and associated equipment clean and in good working order. Handle paperwork, such as receipts or delivery confirmation notices.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than January 22, 2014.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Representatives will be sorely missed. Remember: this is the man who worked with John Boehner to write the No Child Left Behind Act. Miller knows how to accomplish his goals and he knows how to work across the aisle. Those are skills we need in Congress; and those skills will not be easily replaced

when George Miller leaves at the end of this year.

“Speaking personally, I will always be grateful that George Miller extended a hand of friendship to me as the first member of Congress representing the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. Many people saw Mr. Miller as an enemy of the Northern Marianas, because of his fight against labor conditions in the garment factories there.

“But Mr. Miller was not an enemy of the Marianas. He was—and remains—an enemy of exploitation and abuse, wherever it occurs. Last year, when the collapse of a garment fac-

tory in Bangladesh killed over a thousand workers, George Miller went to the scene. Miller is not an enemy of Bangladesh. He is just a man who believes that people should be treated fairly and humanely. And he understands that he has the influence and, therefore the responsibility to work to improve standards for people who may have no other champion.

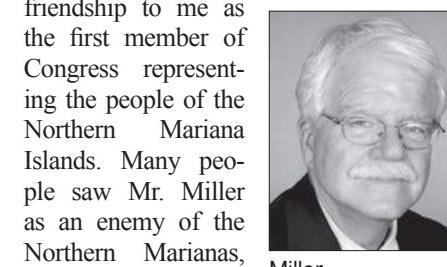
“Fortunately, the garment factory days are long over in the Marianas. But because of George Miller’s efforts to help workers the minimum wage that the indigenous people of our islands now earn has almost doubled—and will reach the U.S. minimum

in 2018. Because of George Miller more students in the Northern Marianas are eligible for Pell grants and those grants are larger, giving young people access to higher education and to future jobs that pay much more than minimum wage. Because of George Miller we have a million dollars in new money each year to help train locals to take over the jobs once held by non-U.S. workers in the Northern Marianas economy.

“George Miller continued the tradition of his own mentor, the late Phil Burton, who fought for the little guy and who was instrumental in approval of the Northern Marianas Covenant. The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund that put laptops in the hands of NMI students, repaired

our school buildings, and paid teachers’ salaries; the EduJobs bill, which empowered teachers; healthcare reform with millions in new Medicaid money keeping our hospital open—these were all legislative initiatives where Mr. Miller played a key role.

“But George Miller is not gone yet. There is still more to be done to improve education, to raise incomes, and to be sure that people can be safe in their workplace, not only in the Northern Marianas, but throughout our nation. I look forward to seeing Mr. Miller devote his final year in Congress with renewed effort to those goals; and I look forward to working alongside George Miller and continuing to learn from him.” (PR)



Miller



### WELCOME HOME!

SPC Christopher Del Rosario, holding his 2-year-old son, arrives at the Saipan International Airport on Jan. 9, 2014, from his deployment in Afghanistan. It was especially heartwarming for Del Rosario, seeing for the first time his 3-month-old daughter.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

### Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

#### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of December 27th, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments

#### B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2014-0020:** Grip LLC is proposing to operate an office for ambulance services/ parking on lot 006 H 09 in Chalan Kanoa. This use is classified as Office and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located on Carmen Avenue, south of Mt Carmel School, and is zoned as Village Residential.

#### C. Communications/ Reports

#### D. Old Business

1. Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013, authored by Representative Larry I. Deleon Guerrero, 18th CNMI Legislature

#### E. New Business

1. **Board Resolution to amend Conditional Use Permit #2011-6433.** Tasi Homes Development Co., LLC is requesting to amend its approved site development plan to reflect interior re-designing of floor plans, re-structuring of parking stalls, and closure of one entrance/exit driveway fronting Beach Road. This area is located next to the Sugar Dock and northwest of Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.
2. Office operations report

#### C. Executive (Closed) Session

#### G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

### NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Grip, LLC

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Grip LLC is proposing to operate an office for ambulance services/ parking on lot 006 H 09 in Chalan Kanoa. This use is classified as Office and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located on Carmen Avenue, south of Mt Carmel School, and is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014, Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr,  
Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, January 22nd, 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

## Three charged in rape of 24-year-old woman in Guam

**GUAM** (Pacific News Center)—Bail was set at \$250,000 cash for each of three young men accused in yet another brutal rape early Monday morning.

The three are accused of gang-raping a 24-year-old woman at Lencho Park in Dededo about 4:30am Monday morning.

Jose Longa, 21, was charged with conspiracy to commit first degree criminal sexual conduct and felonious restraint. Minority

Nisar Taitano Rugante, 25, was charged with three counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct. Francis Madeus, 18, was also charged with three counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct.

It's a sadly familiar story, young men drinking in the park late at night. A woman walked by and the magistrate complaint says that Rugante told Madeus he wanted to have sex with her. He went up to the woman and

asked her. She refused and tried to run away. But Madeus then tackled her, says the complaint, and the others joined in.

An early morning jogger saw the attack and called police to report "a rape in progress." According to the magistrate complaint, the caller told police he heard a woman screaming, and calling out for help.

When the GPD officers arrived on the scene, the woman

was getting up from the ground, nude from the waist down, crying hysterically.

Officers noted an empty bottle of iced tea near her that, the victim said, her attackers had put on her mouth to keep her from screaming out loud.

She said that four young men raped her, while another held her down. Two of the accused were quickly apprehended at the scene, a third was arrested a short time later.

### HOUSE SESSION

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, left, addresses senators while Customs Services Division director Joe Mafnas looks on during a session Tuesday morning wherein senators discussed a House bill requiring mandatory drug testing among all law enforcement personnel in the CNMI.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### MHS PTA meeting today

All Marianas High School parents, guardians, and students are urged to attend the MHS PTA meeting today, Jan. 16, at 6pm in the MHS Dolphin Theatre. We will get an update of MHS administration and programs, student council and elect a new treasurer. (MHS)

#### Hopwood PTSA meeting today

Hopwood Jr. High School will have a PTSA meeting today, Jan. 16, 2014, starting at 6pm in the school cafeteria. We urge and highly encouraged everyone to come and attend our meeting and help us as we plan our school fundraising activities so the school can use the funds to help support with the need of the school's daily operation or emergencies, share great ideas for school improvement, and provide some instructional strategies to our parents so they too can be of support to their children's learning on way or another. Also, the PTSA is going to be handing out 10 great raffle prizes provided by some of Hopwood's community partners. (PR)

#### Coast Guard training at Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct

training at Warning Area 517 on Jan 18-19, from 9am to 6:30pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

#### DPS to block Marpi on Jan. 29

The Department of Public will be blocking off the northern part of the island, from Marpi north, on Jan. 29, 2014, from approximately 12pm to 3pm. The purpose of this blockage is to dispose of a significant collection of unexploded ordnance that has been collected by the department's explosive response team. DPS is requesting all visitors to these popular areas of the island to make arrangements to visit either in the morning before the 12pm deadline or after the operation is completed at 3pm. Anyone with questions can contact the Explosives Response Team operational

supervisor, Sgt. Anthony I. Macaranas, at 483-5818. (DPS)

#### Reminder to Cursillistas

De Colores, all Cursillistas, a reminder that Ultreya is scheduled today, Jan. 16, at 7pm at the San Jose Church. (PR)

#### Lost keys

Please help find lost car keys (Nissan Altima) left in Garapan (near Elegance Cafe). If found, please return them to Saipan Tribune or call 789-6157.

#### House committee sets public hearing

The House Standing Committee on Education is inviting the general public of Saipan to a public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014 at 6pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The purpose of this public hearing will be to discuss HLI 18-007, which proposes to amend Article 15, Section 2 of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the election of the members of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written or verbal comments on or before the date of the public hearing. Contact the Office of Rep. Roman C. Benavente if you have any questions regarding this pub-

lic hearing and fax comments to (670) 664-8900 or email rep.ebenavente@gmail.com. (PR)

#### Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force is conducting training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla until Jan. 16, from 9pm to 11:55pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

#### UOG spring registration ongoing

Registration for the spring 2014 semester at the University of Guam is ongoing. All students may register for spring 2014 until Jan. 17 at the Admissions & Records office located on the first floor of the UOG Field House, at UOG Satellite Offices, and online using WebAdvisor ([www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu)). Late registration will be held Jan. 17, 18 (WebAdvisor only), and 21. For more information, call Admissions & Records at 735-2202 or visit online at [www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu). (UOG)

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 47th birthday to the world's greatest husband, brother, uncle, friend, and No. 1 Dad, Jerwin Moded! Just wanted to wish you a special birthday and many more birthdays to come and to let you know we love you so much, always and forever. From your wife Vicki, your kids Sabet, Steph, Helen, Boboy, and Charlene and the family.



Happy 2nd birthday to our lovable Taizo Jude Perez Kaneshi! Our wish is for you to be always in good health and have faith in God. Love and kisses from Dad and Mom.



## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### January 16, 2006

#### CUC's water main breaks down

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water main supplying most parts of Garapan—including the tourist and commercial district—ruptured early yesterday morning, prompting the utility firm to temporarily shut down water supply to thousands of users. CUC water division trade specialist Mariano Iglesias said the 16-inch water pipe sustained damage as water pressure varies daily. "There are signs of insufficient cushioning when it was constructed," Iglesias said. CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis explained that the main was constructed in the 1990s. He said the PVC pipe needs cushioning to prevent damage as it moves due to water pressure. Soil and rock movement may also cause damage to the pipe.

#### MVA: Nearly 30K less tourists in 2005

The CNMI played host to 506,846 visitors in 2005—nearly 30,000 tourists less than the 2004 total—even as the pullout of Japan Airlines' regular flights to Saipan only began during the last quarter last year. Enhancing visitor arrivals to the CNMI poses a big challenge to the new administration of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who declared in his recent inaugural speech his target of attracting one million visitors yearly, which is almost double the 2005 tourist arrival turnout. The 2005 total reflects a 5.42-percent drop from the number of tourists who came to the islands in 2004—535,873—even as JAL's pullout took effect only in the latter part of the year, particularly on Oct. 4, 2005. Tourism industry players fear that the airline's pullout would translate to a loss of over 100,000 tourists yearly.

### January 16, 2007

#### NMI delegation off to DC

A CNMI delegation headed by Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez left yesterday for Washington D.C., to raise the Commonwealth's concerns on the proposed federal wage hike. Aside from Villagomez, other members of the group are said to be Senate President Joseph Mendiola, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Juan T. Guerrero, and Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands chairwoman Lynn Knight. The team is expected to hold meetings with congressional staffers on the minimum wage issue. Chamber acting president Alex Sablan said the team needs to get to Washington D.C. "by Tuesday." "They have a closed-door meeting on Tuesday," said Sablan, without elaborating.

#### DOI team completes '24 questions' report

The Department of the Interior's team tasked to respond to the U.S. Senate's 24 questions on the CNMI's economic and immigration situation has completed its report. "It was completed [this afternoon]," said DOI regional economist Wali M. Osman in an interview Wednesday last week. Osman worked on the assignment for about two weeks in the CNMI. He flew back to Washington D.C. over the weekend. He said his report will be submitted to the Office of Insular Affairs for a review process. The final report should reach OIA deputy assistant secretary David B. Cohen on Jan. 16.

### January 16, 2008

#### Misused \$6.4M uncollected in '07

The Attorney General's Office and other government agencies did nothing in the first half of 2007 to recover some \$6.4 million in misused funds. The Office of the Public Auditor reported that it received no updates from the AGO and other responsible agencies on the status of the recovery of the funds. As of June 30, 2007, audit recommendations in 13 audit reports were referred to the AGO for legal action to recover improperly expended funds. According to these audit reports, some \$2.7 million is potentially recoverable. This includes about \$1.3 million in overpayments of professional services contracts, and \$1.1 million from the Tinian gaming commission.

#### Governor reports balanced budget

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has reported a balanced budget for the second year in a row. The governor told the Legislature that the CNMI government achieved a small surplus of \$14,000 in fiscal year 2007, which ended on Sept. 30, 2007. Based on unaudited information, revenue collections and other financing sources totaled \$163.13 million. This is \$155,000 less than projected and \$33.5 million less than the previous year. Recorded expenditures and obligations totaled \$163.116 million.

# Christmas in the Marianas

Photos by MARK RABAGO



Koblerville Elementary School topped the float competition during the four-week 2014 Christmas in the Marianas celebration at the Paseo de Marianas. KES teacher Karen Alla is seen here accepting the \$1,000 first place prize from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, while PDM Promoters, Inc. CEO and director Misako Kamata looks on.



Kagman Elementary School came in second in the float competition.



San Vicente Elementary School came in third in the float competition.



Green Meadow School came in fifth in the float competition.



Mt. Carmel School came in sixth in the float competition.



Kagman High School topped the caroling competition for high school in the 2014 Christmas in the Marianas.



Mt. Carmel School finished runner-up in the caroling competition for high school.



Garapan Elementary School was named champion of the caroling competition for elementary schools in the 2014 Christmas in the Marianas.



Mt. Carmel School came in third in the caroling competition for elementary schools.



Oleai Elementary School finished third in the caroling competition for elementary schools.

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Still too many without jobs

**D**emocrats in Congress are making a play to shore up extended assistance for 1.3 million long-term unemployed in this election year, though it's hard to be enthusiastic about their efforts. They are looking for an extension of only three months, which is short of what's needed.

The extended benefits were last authorized in 2008, when the unemployment rate was 5.6 percent. Today it's 6.7 percent.

The aid should depend on the level of unemployment, specifically the number of workers who have been jobless for at least six months, when state assistance typically expires. That group currently makes up 2.6 percent of the workforce, a sign that long-term unemployment remains a serious problem.

In previous economic downturns, extended unemployment benefits have been reduced only when the rate of long-term unemployment fell to 1.3 percent or lower. That makes assertions that this is the right time to cut benefits absurd.

Almost as misleading is the claim by U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., that extended assistance creates a "disincentive to work." The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has found that a small number of people "would reduce the intensity of their job search" while receiving benefits, but it noted that the effect would be modest and that the available jobs would be taken by other unemployed people.

Last week, the Senate cleared a procedural hurdle toward extending assistance. Voting to consider the benefits extension were all the chamber's Democrats and six of its Republicans. Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., voted no.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, is signaling that the extension would have a hard time in the House. He is calling for the spending to be offset by cuts and traded for modifications of the Affordable Care Act. Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., has proposed offsetting the costs of the \$6.4 billion short-term fix by reducing farm subsidies.

That might be acceptable, but other members are insisting on cuts to food stamps, which would be cruel. Many of the long-term unemployed use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and they should not be forced to choose between less food and less money to buy food and other necessities.

Extended jobless benefits have been unavailable since Dec. 28. The resulting reduction in consumer spending is costing the economy \$408 million a week, including \$34 million a week in New Jersey and \$25 million a week in Pennsylvania. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the economy could lose 200,000 jobs this year without the infusion of unemployment aid, spreading misery to more people.

Many of those losing their weekly checks, meanwhile, are in dire situations. These are people who have few options and are trying to return to the workforce, which is a requirement for those receiving unemployment assistance. Congress should extend this help until long-term joblessness subsides.

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### On civil disobedience

**M**artin Luther King Jr. was one traumatic experience for me in Dallas, Texas, in '68 since I was in a car accident the evening he was assassinated. He was shot a second time when I woke up at my university hospital and the nurse exclaimed, "Thank God, they finally got the nigger!" after the TV anchor made the announcement. Only a month before, I joined an ecumenical group of priests, pastors, and rabbis in a march (the Baptist preacher, Abraham Herschel, and others in locked arms in the lead) in Washington, D.C., to egg forward the war against poverty and to protest the badly conceived war in Vietnam.

I was young and would have been prone to mischief in the parliament of the street but MLK Jr.'s whole example pointed to Mahatma Gandhi's tactics and strategies of civil disobedience and non-violent protest used in South Africa and India, so I had to stymie the youthful urge for volatile action and allow the intensity of my passion to rage on the mending of my body and soul should I ever be exposed to lasting scars from the violence of others.

Mandela would just have been into his fifth year in jail into what proved to be a 27-year sojourn behind South Africa's iron bars, but already he was showing signs that his efforts were going to be a turn away from violent means to exact revenge against forces that kept his country in apartheid and him in confinement to aiming the assistance of his country to answer how the future generation was going to live.

MLK Jr. would have been 85 years old today; he was barely 39 years old when I cast my being into his shadows. Of course, I was only 23 years young then, too. Ah, so long ago and what a springtime it was. But the issues he died for and we lived with are not gone.

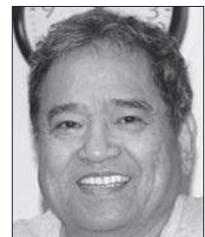
Even today in the Northern Marianas, those of indigenous descent (however that is defined) are claiming rights and privileges reminiscent of times when some folks thought themselves to be more equal than others. You'd think we've learned our lessons. *Nyet! Bu!* When economic competition blows its horn at the investment line, in both times of scarcity and plenty, the claim for special rights and privileges of a few have a tendency to rear its ugly head.

This article not focused on the personhood of MLK no more than focusing on Abraham Lincoln just because I want to delve into the emancipation of slaves. Speaking of slaves, the Golden Globes awards (from members of Hollywood's foreign journalists) just gave the movie *12 Years a Slave*, a historical drama of a free New Yorker kidnapped and sold to slavery in Louisiana, the Movie-of-the-Year recognition. The nation's sensitivity to our historic shift from an all-white male image of leadership to having a Barack Obama in the White House may finally be making some headway.

**By JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



But not too quick. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, hiring a discontinued GOP researcher as head of his staff, vows to get his constituents' "voices heard in Washington and to promote a positive policy agenda that will restore economic growth, rein in government overreach, and protect Americans' personal liberties." Add "equitable" to economic growth, and Cruz sounds MLK-ish!

Our concern for the moment is the tactic of civil disobedience in pursuit of civil rights. The U.S. Bill of Rights protects individual's freedom from infringement by public officials and private organizations, ensuring one's right to participate in civil and political life without repression nor discrimination. Protection of these rights includes equality in the diversity of race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, ethnicity and color, religion, and disability; it protects individual rights to privacy, freedoms of conscience and thought, speech and expression, religion, the press, assembly, and movement.

But the tactic of civil disobedience is not a walk in the park. It may redound to mere battles of images but when applied, the blunt of the bludgeon and the trash of the truncheon do not sit easy on the cranium. Whether it is old folks lining up to protest the construction of Keystone pipelines from the tar sands of Alberta to the Gulf of Mexico, to kelp divers in Jeju Do watching their livelihoods upended by towering cranes building a U.S. naval station to watch over non-Chinese oil claims (through SoKor and Nippon) in the China Sea, or the silent sufferings of various refugee camps of displaced people caught in the competing natural resource cartels in Nigeria, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, and Iran, the bold stance of "NO" and the assertive declarations of "YES" from local democratic impulses are running up against the vested interests of monarchs and centralized powers across the planet.

Ironically, in the United States, the actuations of the tea party of late, and the fast of the young man in Utah protesting the legalization of same-sex marriages, are recipes straight out of the Gandhi-MLK-Mandela cookbooks on civil disobedience.

So Martin (I am much older now than when we met), I glance at your legacy again today, knowing that the struggle you had is not real until I see its likeness in my very own.

# Tiempon Areglu

**Y**angin difirientes klasen hatsada sumasapet i publiku na sakan, haf na ayudu ina' guaha para in' ataha linala' miserapble gi señgsoñg siha?

Deste ma-utut pagamientun man-ritirau, tinatitiye ni mahatsan health insurance, dispues gaige ha' ta'lu i hatsadan neñkanu' yan apas kandet gi santatte kulan guatdia kontra mone- dan familia.

Mañgge promsesan ayudu gi tautau ni in' represesenta gi todum atmos ramas gobietnu? Kau uttimu rekueddu i linala' miserapble ni hamyu pumega pot diskuidu yan mañan tatnun?

I botadot kabales esta ha komprende asuntun linahyan. Ti listu ru- mipite pinadesen diskuidu ni mafattu ginen hegsu' I Deni'. Siempre talie' este na disposisio pa'gu na sakan.

I binibun publiku klaru mamanifesta deste ma'pos na sakan elec- sion. Mas este u sentidu na biahe' an mamokat i botadot para i sagan eleksion na sakan. Ti umahñau siempre u guaha tinilaika.

Ti komprendiyon i finatane' nai kimasosson atuf gima' i tautau siha gi señgsoñg!

## Galaide` moneda

Ta batga hit na i man-ma'gasta man-listu gi inakuden masuhetan difirientes hatsada ni sumakenguan fuetsan familia ni tetehnan na salape' niha. Lau ni unu sumuhon kalañkeña. Man-hanau halom gi fondun apusiente, man-atog.

Apas kandet kada ratu kahulu', mahatsa esta i balin health insurance 'nai gi mismu tiemtu ma-utut pagamienton man-ritirau, yan siempre lokue' u kahulu' presium neñkanu'. Man-mañgge i 29 na membron lehislatura yan administrasion gi este na mattiru?

Pot sumen makat gi familia siha gi enteru Marianas i pinadesen diskuidu mina' hu atitisa haf bidan nimiha i man-ma'gas gi ma-

suhetan pinadese gi señgsoñg siha. Kau pot mampos chagu' papa' i tautau gi señgsoñg na mahasñgon ma-upus obligasion niha?

Na ti man-manhula' hamyu para in' adelanta ha' anen i tautau ni in' represesenta gi hegsu' I Deni'? Mañgge fina' cho' chu' miyu gi este siha na puntu?

Pot fabot nafan safu ham ginen otru biradan "biba" nai para inna mamtu' i hasgas pasadu na dinagen i alacha na tiempu. Esta 'in dimemoria mañan miyu. Pues muñga mata' lun ma-atbansa i hasgas 'an ñigañgas siha na dinage.

Na ti magahet na mamatos Marianas gi halom fache' dibi? Haf bidan miyu para in' areglia este na finatsu?

## Lastima na appottunidat

Kau ti mahasñgon na sumen chatsaga linala' i tautau siha na tiemtu? Maseha haf na eskusu, ti matulaika i diberas na modun pinadese gi enteru halom iya Marianas.

Pot nuegueños ma-upus obligasion niha dimas de uma-areglia ha' anen i tautau siha. Haf na fugon manog 'an man-huyuñg publicamente pot diskuidon niha. Lau sotta ya i tautau u inareglia futunian hinerat punta pot punta. Gaige este na direchu gi kanai i tautau na Nobiembre.

Ti komprendiyon i mañan "no siankassu" lau didog kahulo'ña i gaston linala'. Deste insurans (insurance) hinemu', kandet, gaston neñkanu' yan otru siha obligasion. Tat ti kahulo' deste finagpu' ma'pos na sakan. Lau, otdinariu matrata este siha na chinatsaga ni man-ma'gasta. Kau mampos maneñgheñg mañglo' I Deni'?

Klaru na man-diniñgu ni asuntun linahyan siha. Kase pot este na man-malag papa' fina' nuhuñg para u fañaunau man-ega' ni diskuidon niha mismu. Na ti satbasion gaige gi offisiat na obligacion miyu?

outside world, is often seen as a rugged, manly virtue. In this case, it was a failing.

I think I would have given 10 years off my life, maybe amputated a limb, for the chance to spend half an hour with Obama during the same period Gates covers in his book. I was working on high-level Afghanistan policy, having lived in that country since 2002. I desperately wanted to provide an analysis of the drivers of the conflict—and associated policy recommendations—that I knew Obama was not getting from his Cabinet or his White House aides.

As secretary of Defense, Gates could meet the president whenever he needed to. And yet, by his own admission, he never mentioned his concerns. Those concerns, especially regarding what he calls White House micromanagement, are shared by other former officials who have spoken out. But it is just such issues that responsible top executives routinely raise and work through with their superiors.

Likewise the widening breach of trust that Gates and others describe separating the White House and top military brass. Gates decries the national security staff's "aggressive, suspicious and sometimes condescending and insulting questioning of our military leaders." Yet he never rose to those leaders' defense by having a forthright conversation with the president to call out this conduct. If it was as damaging to him and to the national interest as he writes, it was his duty to do so.

On substance, Gates praises Obama's decision to authorize the raid that killed Osama bin Laden. He criticizes his ambivalence about the troop surge in Afghanistan. But in each case, what Gates neglects to highlight is the lack of a coherent policy framing the military actions.

Bin Laden's compound—given its size, the loops of concertina wire protecting its walls and its location in the heart of a highly secure military town—was, on the face of it, a safe house. And yet, while top executive branch officials and even the president were debating how many helicopters should fly on the raid, no one worked

To be sure, name a state where its medical referral patients have continued to be sent to Honolulu or Manila for over 30 years.

To be sure, name a state where its power rates are comparable to our electric rates and per capita for the past 30 years.

To be sure, name a state where the cost of living is comparable to our cost of living for the past 30 years.

To be sure, name a state where the cost of retail gasoline has been more expensive than the price of gasoline here for the past 30 years.

To be sure, name a state that has a lower minimum wage than ours for the past 30 years, where employment in the private sector is minimum wage dependent.

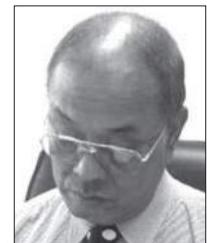
To be sure, name a state that has not paid private landowners their rightful compensation for land taken for public use for the past 30 years.

To be sure, name a state where its government personnel's wage and salary structure is non-existent and where one's wage and salary is more politically influenced rather than merit influenced for the past 20 years.

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



## Laterian konsuelu

Gigon uma'asoda' ham, ha choneg un' latan setbesa ni hafana'an "lateria" pot para baina' freskon ñaihonyu'. Chumaleg pa'gu na debi bai' lumus binibuhu gi maneñgheñg na lateria.

Sige ham pa'gu umasaullag asuntu siha. Dispues, ha apagatu':

"Primu, ni unu umapunta hau satbadot probleman enteru elmundu. Pues ketu ya un' uñgag ta'lu un' lateria puede linasa hinassomu".

Magahet, sumehayu' ya sige pa'gu i konbetsasion frihonada pot para bai'n achatge antes de bai' tulusyu' para iya hame. Ha komprende puntoghu pot asuntun linahyan. Guiya lokue' pumadedese ma-utut sueldoña kumu ritirau ni pinalo'pu' ni guaguan kandet, kumahulu' kobransan insurance hinemu', neñkanu' yan otru siha hatsada.

Dibera, makat na mattiru piot para i man-ritirau ni dididi' sueddón niha! Mauleg na guaha laterian konsuelu gi ice chest i amiguhu 'nai siñayu' hu lipa. Siña soplú dinagen primet biae lau ti u falofan dos biae. Siempre ta pega gi sagaña. Listu i publiku ni este na obligasioña.

## By SARAH CHAYES

Los Angeles Times



*Sarah Chayes, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, served as special assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 2010 to 2011. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

through all the implications for Pakistan policy. Was our ally in the Afghanistan war deliberately harboring our No. 1 enemy? What did that mean? How should our approach to Pakistan change?

None of those questions was sufficiently examined during the lead-up to the raid. And in the subsequent policy scramble, a coherent strategy toward that counterproductive partner was never developed. The U.S. is still subsidizing a government that deliberately organizes and sends extremists to commit attacks in Afghanistan.

Gates blasts Obama's growing ambivalence about the "troop increase (he) boldly approved in 2009." The massive deployment was, in Gates' view, a better approach than whack-a-mole counter-terrorism. And yet, without a policy to grapple with the abusive corruption of the Afghan government or with Pakistan's sponsorship of the Taliban, neither of those military options stood much chance of success. Without such a strategic framework, Obama was right to be dubious about the surge. Where he was wrong was in failing to task his civilian leadership to adequately develop that policy.

*Duty* will go down as one of the most ill-tempered memoirs ever written by a former Cabinet secretary. The White House helped bring such a tongue-lashing on itself by relentlessly spinning this story for years, through interviews and leaks to authors like Woodward. Still, Gates may have tarnished his previously stellar name by retorting in this manner, at this time.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# States of human conditions

The story of the Northern Marianas as part of the American family should be a story worthy a book by itself. It is a story of about 40 years, where a page or two letter to the editor would not do justice.

The biggest question during all these years is whether or not our people have enjoyed a progressively higher standard of living comparable to those Americans in other states.

I can say with absolute certainty that during the past decade, our people's standard of living have regressed to or near Third World countries' conditions and much worse than any state in the nation.

To be sure, consider the drinkability of our faucet water. Name a state where its inhabitants cannot drink directly from faucet water for over 30 years.

To be sure, name a state or a country for that matter, where its immigration system allowed its foreign workers to overwhelm its own citizenry by offering a path to voting citizenship by a ratio of 2 to 1 at least.

And last and not the least, to be sure, name a state whose pensioners now get 25 percent less at a time when they need help the most.

And last and not the least, again, to be sure, name a state whose chief executive is on hemodialysis—very sick and disabled, cannot function and perform to the highest standards demanded of such position.

The above "states of human conditions" call for some immediate and serious thoughts and reflections and considerations. I have always believed in our people's power for change. Would this be the election year to say "Enough is enough"? Let our good-hearted people decide!

**Juan S. Demapan**

San Vicente, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°

## Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 76
Palau	Showers	▲ 84 ▾ 76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▾ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 81
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 81
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 80

## Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▾ 62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▾ 21
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 66 ▾ 55
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▾ 66
London	Showers	▲ 52 ▾ 48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 80 ▾ 47
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 82 ▾ 73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 108 ▾ 61
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▾ 41
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▾ 31
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▾ 36
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 50 ▾ 39
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 46 ▾ 32
Rome	Showers	▲ 56 ▾ 53
Salem	Sunny	▲ 54 ▾ 32
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 71 ▾ 43
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 38 ▾ 24
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▾ 31
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▾ 32

## Tides

### Sunrise/Sunset

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:47 AM	6:07 PM	Today	6:12 PM	6:26 AM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM	Friday	7:00 PM	7:08 AM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM	Saturday	7:48 PM	7:49 AM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM	Sunday	8:36 PM	8:29 AM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM	Monday	9:23 PM	9:07 AM

## PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island near 25N175E to southwest of Minami Tori Shima near 19N160E then curves northwestward as a shear line to beyond 25N at 142E east of 150E. Patchy low-level cloudiness and showers are observed along and up to 100 miles north of this boundary west of 150E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are taking place along the shear line and northward to beyond 25N. Another cold front extends southwestward from a circulation centered near 25N138E to just beyond 16N at 130E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough undulates eastward from 4N130E to 1N143E to a weak circulation centered south of Chuuk at 2N153E to end south of Pohnpei near EQ158E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present southwest of Koror or west of a line from 9N132E to EQ134E and also over Chuuk and Pohnpei states or south of a line from 8N147E to 7N153E to EQ160E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the southern Marshalls and near Kosrae between 5N and 9N from 162E to the date line.



## Yesterday's Satellite Image

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

### PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

### BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

### SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

### TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
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<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>			<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>				
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5039	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
			via Rota	UA5038	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA5077	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA5079	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily				
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b>			<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>				
UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5038	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>			<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b>				
UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5038	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b>			<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b>				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>			<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>			<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>			<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	D2101	8:30am	2:00pm	3
OZ606	2:20am	5:50am	3	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	D2103	7:30pm	1:00am+1	6
OZ606	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	2:00pm	5:30pm	6	OZ60			

# Business

## World Bank sees global economy is ‘picking up’

By HARRY DUNPHY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The global economy is slowly

picking up steam, led by advanced economies appearing to turn the corner after five years of financial crises and recession and a continued

good performance by China, the World Bank said Tuesday.

However, it says growth prospects remain vulnerable to rising interest rates and potential

volatility in capital flows as the U.S. Federal Reserve eases up on the extraordinary stimulus it has been providing to the U.S. economy, the world's largest.

The bank's twice-yearly Global Economic Prospects report says global growth is expected to firm from 2.4 percent in 2013 to 3.2 percent this year and 3.4 percent in 2015.

The report said the momentum that countries such as the United States and Japan are building up should support stronger growth in the developing countries.

Presenting the findings, Kaushik Basu, the bank's chief economist, the outlook for the global economy is uneventful

“It's a strange world we live in that news that an uneventful economy ahead of us is meant to be good news,” Basu said at a news conference at the bank's Washington headquarters. He added, “But not surprising” that

this is the case after years of economic turmoil.

The report says that although risks to the global economy have subsided, they have not been eliminated and include fiscal uncertainty in the United States, protracted recovery in the euro zone and possible setbacks in China's restructuring policies.

The bank said the Federal Reserve decision to begin trimming its intervention in the market, known as quantitative easing, “is welcome as it reflects increasingly convincing signs that a self-sustaining recovery is under way.” It said the most likely scenario is for the tapering off to follow an orderly trajectory and for global interest rates to rise only slowly, reaching 3.6 percent by mid-2016.

In Japan, the report says, large doses of fiscal and monetary stimulus have sparked a strong cyclical upturn but

keeping this going will require structural reforms.

The bank says in the euro zone, banks have gone a long way to restructuring themselves but that sector remains weak. Details on a fully fledged banking union are still being worked out “and the currency bloc remains susceptible to shock.”

The report says that although developing country growth in 2013 was relatively weak, at an estimated 4.8 percent, “it has been firming in recent months, partly reflecting strengthening growth in high-income countries, but also a recovery from earlier weakness in large middle-income countries, such as India and China.”

Looking at regional trends, the bank said growth will be flat in East Asia and the Pacific, modest in Latin America and the Caribbean and held back in the Middle East and North Africa due to social and political strife.

## Carbon dioxide pollution in US rose 2 percent in 2013, report says

By SHAN LI  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

After several years of shrinking pollution, carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. climbed 2 percent last year due to a slight bump in coal consumption, according to a report.

Some 5.38 billion tons of carbon dioxide were released into the air in 2013, up from 5.27 billion tons emitted in 2012, according to a report from the U.S. Energy Informa-

tion Administration.

Rising natural gas prices have boosted the use of coal in the last year to generate electricity. In October, for example, the sooty material was the source of 39 percent of the country's electricity, while natural gas contributed 28 percent. In 2012, coal was the source of 37 percent of the nation's electricity while natural gas accounted for 30 percent.

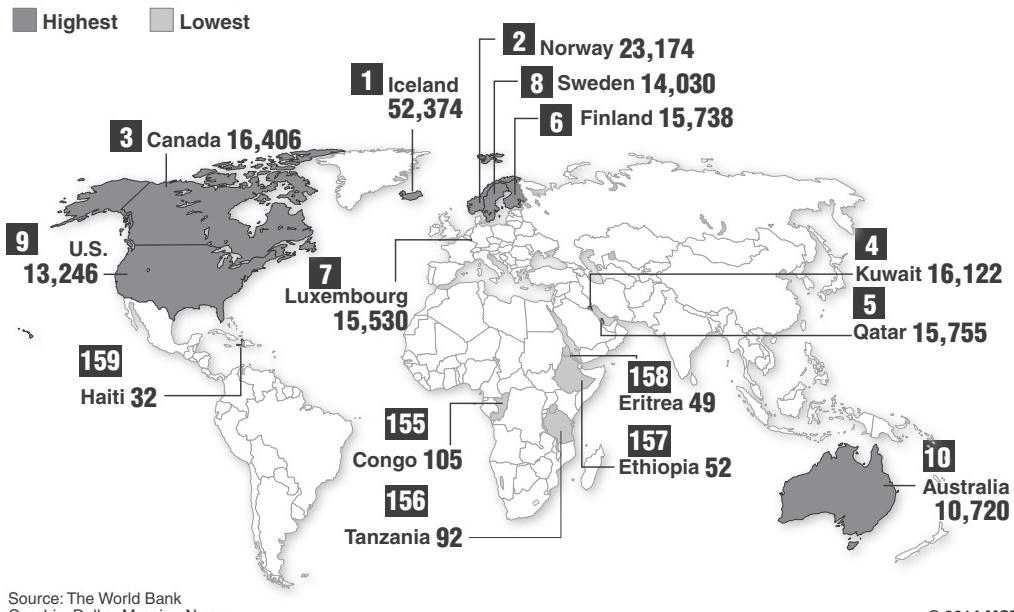
Emissions in 2013 are still more than 10 percent below

2005 pollution levels, the report noted. That means the U.S. is well on its way to reaching President Barack Obama's goal of slashing carbon emissions 17 percent by 2020.

The energy agency said that weak economic growth in recent years dampened energy demand and therefore helped push down emissions. Continuing energy efficiency and an extensive supply of affordable natural gas has also shifted the U.S. energy landscape, the report said.

## Who uses the most – and the least – electricity

In kilowatt hours (kwh) per person, 2011 (out of 159 countries surveyed):



## Electricity on the slide

The amount of electricity used by the average U.S. household is at its lowest level in a decade, despite an unprecedented surge in electronic devices on the market. One reason is that appliances and light bulbs – by far the biggest energy hogs – are becoming more efficient.

### Drop in electricity use

Annual household use per person, in thousands of kilowatt hours



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

### More efficient light bulbs

Annual costs of traditional and modern, more efficient light bulbs, based on four hours of daily use in kilowatt hours

Use	Cost
60w incandescent	\$10.50
Compact fluorescent lamp bulb	2.63
Light-emitting diode (LED) bulb	2.10

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration  
Graphic: James Osbourne, Troy Oxford, Dallas Morning News

### Cost to run appliances

Monthly cost based on residential electricity charge of 12 cents per kilowatt hour, if used for four hours per day

Coffee maker	\$16.56
Washer	6.12
Dryer	48.96
Dishwasher	25.92
Space heater	16.20
Computer	3.88
Refrigerator	10.44
36-inch TV	1.92
Hair dryer	22.14
Vacuum cleaner	17.57

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## Report: NSA maps pathway into computers

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The National Security Agency has implanted software in nearly 100,000 computers around the world—but not in the United States—that allows the U.S. to conduct surveillance on those machines, The New York Times reported Tuesday.

The Times cited NSA documents, computer experts and U.S. officials in its report about the use of secret technology using radio waves to gain access to computers that other countries have tried to protect from spying or cyberattacks. The software network could also create a digital highway for launching cyberattacks, the Times reports.

The Times reported that the technology, used by the agency for several years, relies on radio waves that can be transmitted from tiny circuit boards and USB cards inserted covertly into the computers. The NSA calls the effort an “active defense” and has used the technology to monitor units of the Chinese Army, the Russian military, drug cartels, trade institutions inside the European Union, and sometime U.S. partners against terrorism like Saudi Arabia, India and Pakistan, the Times reported.

Among the most frequent targets of the NSA and U.S. Cyber Command, the Times

reported, has been the Chinese Army. The United States has accused the Chinese Army of launching regular attacks on American industrial and military targets, often to steal secrets or intellectual property. When Chinese attackers have placed similar software on computer systems of American companies or government agencies, American officials have protested, the newspaper reported.

The NSA says the technology has not been used in computers in the U.S.

“NSA's activities are focused and specifically deployed against—and only against—valid foreign intelligence targets in response to intelligence requirements,” Vanee Vines, an agency spokeswoman, said in a statement to the Times. “We do not use foreign intelligence capabilities to steal the trade secrets of foreign companies on behalf of—or give intelligence we collect to—U.S. companies to enhance their international competitiveness or increase their bottom line.”

Parts of the program have been disclosed in documents leaked by Edward Snowden, the former NSA systems analyst, the Times reported. A Dutch newspaper published the map showing where the United States has inserted spy

software, sometimes with the help of local authorities. Der Spiegel, a German newsmagazine, published information about the NSA's hardware products that can secretly transmit and receive signals from computers, according to the Times.

The Times said that it withheld some of those details, at the request of U.S. intelligence officials, when it reported in summer 2012 on American cyberattacks on Iran.

China's ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs did not immediately respond to faxed queries seeking comment on the article. Chinese officials in the past have stressed that China is a victim of international cyber-espionage and have pushed for international coordination on controlling such espionage.

Zhu Feng, an international security expert at Peking University, said: “Those spying activities show that the U.S. says one thing while doing another thing, and the spying activities are being conducted in an irregular way without rules. Other countries may follow suit, leading to a fierce arms race on the Internet. So, it is time to set up rules and regulations in cyberspace with coordination from the international community.”



### LEADING INDICATORS

#### DOW

16,373.86  
+115.92  
+0.71%

#### S&P

1,838.88  
+19.68  
+1.08%

#### NASDAQ

4,183.02  
+69.71  
+1.69%

In U.S. dollar terms

### EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.121
British Pound	0.609
Canadian Dollar	1.0968
Chinese Yuan	6.0471
Euro	0.7334

### Hong Kong Dollar

61.5862
12065.2
104.42
3.2832
1.1991

### Philippine Peso

45.0095
1.2715
1062.70
0.9062
30.093

### Singapore Dollar

1.2715
1062.70
0.9062
30.093
32.87



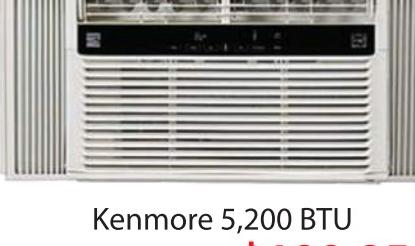
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Kenmore Washer  \$579.95	Kenmore Dryer  \$559.95
Kenmore Electric Range  \$499.95	Kenmore 18cu.ft. Refrigerator  \$649.95



Kenmore 9cu.ft.  
Freezer  
**\$549.95**



Kenmore 18cu.ft.  
Refrigerator  
**\$649.95**

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RCA Universal Remote Control  \$7.95	Nakamichi NK5 Sound Bar with Subwoofer  \$169.95
Memorex CD/MPS Boombox  \$65.95	GPX C232B Clock Radio with Dual Alarm  \$12.95
Kolcraft 2-In-1 Tiny Steps  \$65.95	Instep Safari Jog Stroller  \$215.95
Cosco Booster Seat  \$21.95	

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BBQ Pro 18.5" Square Kettle Grill  \$35.95	Craftsman Evolve 12 Amp Circular Saw  \$69.95
Max AP Canopy 10X20 Foot with 6 Legs  \$179.95	Poulan Gas Chain Saw  \$169.95
AC Delco 2 Ton Trolley Jack Kit  \$52.95	Craftsman Reciprocating Saw  \$69.95
Plus Start 150 Amp Battery Booster Cable  \$9.95	Coleman 48 Quart Cooler  \$29.95
Cleanforce 1400PSI Electric Power Washer  \$189.95	Hefty 13.3 Waste Trash Can w/ Lid  \$16.95
Essential Home 100 Ft Light Duty Garden Hose  \$18.95	Craftsman 5 Drawer Tool Center  \$149.95

Craftsman 2.5 Gal Wet/Dry Vac  \$39.95	Primo Ceramic Tabletop Water Dispenser  \$45.95
Craftsman 5 Drawer Tool Center  \$149.95	Kenmore 30 Inch Tower Fan  \$32.95
Level Loop 5X7 Area Rug  \$26.95	Essential Home 15pc Bath Set  \$19.95
Concourse 4 Piece Luggage Set  \$79.95	Essential Home 20 Pk Medium Hangers  \$5.95
Lancaster Collection 4pc Hamper Set  \$43.95	Weslo Pursuit CT 2.2 Cycle Upright Bike  \$179.95
Taylor Digital Scale  \$19.95	

# Nation

## Vigil draws hundreds after New Mexico shooting

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ROSWELL, N.M.** (AP)—A 12-year-old New Mexico boy drew a shotgun from a band-instrument case and shot and wounded two classmates at his middle school Tuesday morning before a teacher talked him into dropping the weapon and he was taken into custody, officials and witnesses said.

A boy was critically injured and a girl was in satisfactory condition following the shooting at Berrendo Middle School in Roswell.

Gov. Susana Martinez said the students were in the gym, where they typically hang out before classes start during cold and inclement weather. The 12-year-old opened fire with the shotgun there at about 8 a.m.

However, he was "quickly stopped by one staff member who walked right up to him and asked him to set down the firearm, which he did," Martinez said at a news conference.

Superintendent Tom Burris said the school's faculty had



A woman hugs a student at a staging ground set up at the Roswell Mall following a shooting at Berrendo Middle School, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, in Roswell, N.M.

participated in "active shooter" training, and they responded appropriately Tuesday.

"In the 10 seconds that transpired from the time of this thing starting until the teacher had control of the weapon, there was no cowardice," Burris said. "There was protection for our kids. Everyone acted and did their duties today at Berrendo Middle School."

Officials at University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas, said an 11-year-old boy was flown there in critical condition and a 13-year-old girl arrived in serious condition. Her condition was upgraded to satisfactory Tuesday evening.

Information from nurses treating the boy indicates he was the shooter's target, hospital spokesman Eric Finley said. There was some confusion about the boy's age, but Finley said his parents told the hospital he is 11.

The governor said a staff member received very minor injuries but declined medical care because he wanted to stay and help.

The suspected shooter, whom police have not named, was transferred to an Albuquerque psychiatric hospital

following a hearing Tuesday, according to attorney Robert Gorence, who is representing his family. Gorence said the family will release a statement Wednesday.

On Tuesday night, hundreds of people poured into the Roswell Civic Center for a prayer vigil, including elected officials and law enforcement officers from various agencies. There were many hugs and tears.

"We really need this," Roswell resident Maria Lucero, 35, said of the vigil. "We need to pray for the families of the victims and the little boy that did the shooting. I'm going to pray for them all."

Eighth-grader Odie Carranza said she was walking to the school gym when the shooter bumped into her as he rushed past. She told him to be careful, and he apologized and continued on. The boy ran to the gym, where he pulled a gun from a band instrument case and fired at the students.

"Then he shot up in the sky, then dropped the gun, and then some teacher grabbed the kid that had the gun," Carranza said.

Carranza described the shooter as a "smart kid and a nice kid."

## Mass. DA: Chest where 2 children died was recalled

**FRANKLIN, Mass.** (AP)—A hope chest where a young Massachusetts brother and sister died after apparently becoming trapped had been recalled by the manufacturer years ago, the district attorney investigating the case said Tuesday, calling the deaths "a tragic accident."

Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey said preliminary autopsy results indicate the deaths of the 8-year-old girl and 7-year-old boy at their Franklin home on Sunday were accidental. He said toxicology tests are still pending.

Morrissey said the chest, which had a lid that could only be opened from the outside, was made in 1939 by the Lane Furniture Company of Altavista, Va.

In 1996, Lane recalled 12 million cedar chests with lids that automatically latch shut after receiving reports of six children suffocating inside. In 2000, Lane—in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission—called for a renewed search for the chests after becoming aware of another suffocation death and two near fatalities.

Morrissey said people who own similar chests, which also were made by other companies, should check them.

"We would urge anyone who has any kind of chest, hope

chest or piece of this type to examine it with new eyes," Morrissey said. "If you close the lid and have to press or manipulate something on its exterior to get it to open, we urge you to contact the manufacturer for guidance or consider disabling the mechanism yourself."

Lane's current owner, St. Louis-based Heritage Home Group, said it will continue to make replacement locks available to people who own its chests, and consumers should remove the latch plate until a replacement is provided or the chest's safety is verified.

The company said it "extends its deepest condolences to the family that has suffered this unthinkable tragedy. We wish them comfort at this most difficult time."

Morrissey hasn't released the children's names. A neighbor, Dawn Powers, said they were Lexi Munroe and her brother, Sean Munroe. Lexi was a friend of Powers' daughter.

Family members found the children together inside the chest. Police responded to their home at about 8 p.m. Sunday, and the children were taken to hospitals but did not survive. A spokesman for Morrissey said several family members, including an adult, were home at the time.

## NJ GOP Gov. Christie: 'We let down the people'

**TRENTON, N.J.** (AP)—Republican Gov. Chris Christie, faced with a widening political scandal that threatens to undermine his second term and a possible 2016 presidential run, apologized again Tuesday, saying his administration "let down the people we are entrusted to serve" but the issue doesn't define his team or the state.

On the eve of his second term, he opened his annual State of the State address by touching only briefly on the apparent political payback plot, involving road lane closures that caused major backups at the George Washington Bridge, one of the busiest bridges in the country.

"The last week has certainly

tested this administration," he said. "Mistakes were clearly made. And as a result, we let down the people we are entrusted to serve. I know our citizens deserve better."

He received tempered applause after he went on, saying, "This administration and this Legislature will not allow the work that needs to be done to improve the people's lives in Jersey to be delayed."

Christie's measured tone was a noticeable contrast from a year ago when a blustery Christie promised to lead New Jersey back from Superstorm Sandy,

the costliest natural disaster in state history.

The scandal broke wide open last week with the release of documents showing Christie aides and appointees orchestrated the Fort Lee lane closings, which delayed emergency vehicles and school buses for hours and infuriated commuters. Democrats believe the scheme was retaliation against the town's Democratic mayor, who didn't endorse Christie for re-election.

After addressing the scandal, Christie moved on in his speech to such familiar themes as avoiding tax increases and

working with the Democrats who control both chambers of the state Legislature. But he returned to the theme of bipartisanship throughout as he sought to repel doubts about an aggressive brand of politics that propelled him to the forefront of his party but might also be responsible for an apparent petty political vendetta carried out by members of his inner circle.

"We have succeeded in working together to be an example for the entire country dispirited by partisanship," Christie said. "Let us not abandon that course."

Turning to policy matters, Christie stuck mostly to universal goals such as making communities safer without offering much of a blueprint.



Christie

## US judge strikes down Okla. same-sex marriage ban

**TULSA, Okla.** (AP)—A federal judge struck down Oklahoma's gay marriage ban Tuesday, but headed off any rush to the altar by setting aside his order while state and local officials complete an appeal.

It was the second time in a month that a federal judge has set aside a deeply conservative state's limits on same-sex marriage, after Utah's ban was reversed in December.

In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Terence Kern described Oklahoma's ban on same-sex marriage as "an arbitrary, irrational exclusion of just one class of Oklahoma citizens from a governmental benefit."

The decision drew criticism from the governor, attorney general and other elected officials in this state known as the buckle of the Bible Belt. A state lawmaker who once said gay people posed a greater threat to the nation than terrorism blasted rulings from "activist judges."

Kern said the ban violates the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause because it precludes same-sex couples from receiving an Oklahoma marriage license. In his 68-page ruling, Kern frequently referenced U.S. Supreme Court decisions issued last summer on gay marriage. He also took a shot at Oklahoma's high divorce rate,

noting that "excluding same-sex couples from marriage has done little to keep Oklahoma families together thus far."

"Exclusion of just one class of citizens from receiving a marriage license based upon the perceived 'threat' they pose to the marital institution is, at bottom, an arbitrary exclusion based upon the majority's disapproval of the defined class," Kern wrote. "It is also insulting to same-sex couples, who are human beings capable of forming loving, committed, enduring relationships."

Republican Gov. Mary Fallin issued a written statement accusing Kern of undermining the

will of Oklahoma voters who passed the gay marriage ban by a 3-1 margin in 2004.

"The people of Oklahoma have spoken on this issue. I support the right of Oklahoma's voters to govern themselves on this and other policy matters. I am disappointed in the judge's ruling and troubled that the will of the people has once again been ignored by the federal government," the statement said.

Attorney General Scott Pruitt said the Supreme Court had left it to the states to define marriage and that Kern's ruling was "troubling." He said it would likely take another Supreme Court decision to resolve the matter.

# Asia

## Thai tensions rise after gun attack on protesters

By THANYARAT DOKSONE  
and TODD PITMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Gunshots rang out in the heart of Thailand's capital overnight in an apparent attack on anti-government protesters early Wednesday that wounded at least two people and ratcheted up tensions in Thailand's deepening political crisis.

Most of Bangkok remains unaffected by the latest wave of rallies. But the shooting was the latest in a string of violent incidents that have kept the vast metropolis on edge amid fears the country's deadlock could spiral out of control.

Bangkok's emergency services office said one man was hit in the ankle and a woman was hit in the arm in the shooting, which occurred on a street leading to one of Bangkok's glitziest shopping districts that has been occupied since Monday by camping demonstrators trying to bring down Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's government.

Sompeng Pongsattha, a 56-year-old resident who witnessed the attack in the Pathumwan district, said about 30 gunshots were fired from an unknown location toward a protest barricade over the course of about two hours. He said only a few demonstrators were there at the time, and the wounded woman had to be carried to another intersection to be taken to a hospital.

In another incident overnight, a small explosive device was hurled into a residential compound owned by former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, shattering windows and slightly damaging a roof, according to Police Col. Chumpol Phumphuang and Abhisit's opposition Democrat Party. No injuries were reported, and Abhisit—who resigned from Parliament last month to join protesters—was not home at the time.



An anti-government protester of People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) waves a flag over a crowd during a performance in the Pathumwan district, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand. AP

Thailand has been wracked by repeated bouts of unrest since the military ousted Yingluck's brother, ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra, in 2006 amid charges of corruption and alleged disrespect for the monarchy. The crisis boiled over again late last year after a failed ruling party bid to push through an amnesty bill that would have allowed Thaksin to return from exile. Although that effort was quashed, protests intensified,

leaving at least eight people dead and more than 450 injured. Yingluck has tried to ease the crisis by dissolving Parliament and calling for elections on Feb. 2. But there are growing doubts that the vote will take place and both protesters and the main opposition Democrat Party are calling for a boycott. Yingluck's opponents are demanding she step aside so an interim, non-elected government can take over and implement reforms before any new poll is held.

On Tuesday, Yingluck insisted she wouldn't quit while the protesters reiterated vows not to negotiate, leaving no way out in sight. "I've stressed many times I have a duty to act according to my responsibility after the dissolution of Parliament," Yingluck told reporters Tuesday. "I'd like to say right now I am not holding on (to my position) but I have to keep political stability. I'm doing my duty to preserve democracy."

## US lawmakers urge tough stance on China sea claims

### China to regulate fishing in sea despite protests

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—China has insisted it will regulate fishing in the disputed South China Sea under its laws despite protests by neighboring countries, a Philippine official said Tuesday.

Chinese rules which took effect this month require foreign fishermen to seek Beijing's approval to operate in the disputed waters.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said the Philippines asked China to clarify the edict and was told by Beijing that it was "an implementation of China's fisheries law" and that the region was under Chinese jurisdiction.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea, putting it at odds with Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan, which also claim parts of the busy waters as their territory.

held a joint hearing to consider Washington's response, amid worries that U.S. may be drawn into a crisis or conflict over a territorial dispute involving China because the U.S. has bilateral defense treaties with Japan and the Philippines.

Republican Rep. Steve Chabot called China "danger-

Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman Luong Thanh Nghi has said the fishing regulation and other moves by China in recent months are "illegal and invalid" and seriously violate Vietnamese sovereignty.

The United States has criticized the Chinese regulation as "provocative and potentially dangerous." China has asked Washington to stay out of the Asian dispute.

The Philippines and Vietnam are among the most vocal critics of China's claims over the disputed waters, saying they infringe on their own 200-mile (322-kilometer) exclusive economic zones.

China and rival claimants have beefed up their navies and stepped up patrols in the disputed territories, increasing the risk of confrontation.

ously aggressive" and said it was attempting to take disputed territories by gradual force with the "misguided hope that Japan, Southeast Asian nations and the U.S. will just grudgingly accept it."

Democratic Rep. Ami Bera called for a strong, bipartisan message from Congress that

tus quo in the region."

Lawmakers typically take a more uncompromising stance on foreign policy than the administration. But their opinions reflect widespread concern in Washington about China's intentions as it challenges decades of American military pre-eminence in Asia, and its adherence to international law.

China unilaterally declared its air defense zone over parts of the East China Sea in late November, requiring foreign aircraft to submit flight plans to Chinese authorities and accept instructions from the Chinese military. The U.S. responded by flying B-52 bombers through the zone, to show it didn't recognize it. The State Department last week also criticized the new Chinese regulations on fishing in the South China Sea as "provocative and potentially dangerous."

China maintains that it has peaceful intentions and it wants the U.S. to stay out of territorial disputes in which it has no claim.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Indian police: Danish tourist allegedly gang raped

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—Police say a Danish tourist has reportedly been gang raped in broad daylight near a popular central shopping area in New Delhi. Police Spokesman Rajan Bhagat said the 51-year-old woman was lost and asked a group of men for directions. He said the men lured her away and allegedly gang-raped and robbed her Tuesday. Amit Bahl, who owns the hotel where the woman was staying, said he called the police and the Danish Embassy on Tuesday evening after the woman returned to the hotel. Bhagat said no arrests had been made. A deadly gang rape in New Delhi in December 2012 has sparked widespread outrage over chronic sexual violence in India and government failures to protect women.

#### Group say Myanmar army using rape as weapon of war

A women's group says Myanmar's army is using rape as a weapon of war in border regions, where troops are struggling to put down ethnic insurgencies. The Women's League of Burma released a report Tuesday documenting more than 100 rapes in dozens of townships since President Thein Sein took the reins of the new, nominally civilian government nearly three years ago. Nearly half were gang rapes and 28 of the women were killed or died of their injuries, said Tin Tin Nyo, the group's general secretary. She warned little will change until the government amends the 2008 Constitution, which gives the military the right to independently administer all its affairs. Ye Htut, a government spokesman, could not be reached for comment. (AP)

#### Chinese shoe factory fire kills at least 16

**BEIJING** (AP)—A fire at a shoe factory in eastern China on Tuesday killed at least 16 people, state media reported. The blaze broke out at the Dadong factory in the city of Wenling in Zhejiang province, state broadcaster CCTV said. Firefighters put it out about three hours later and rescued more than 20 people, it said. The report didn't say how the fire started. Such factories often contain large amounts of adhesives and other flammable chemicals. An official with the fire service in the surrounding city of Taizhou, who gave only his surname, Luo, confirmed the fire, but said he had no further details.

# World

## Egypt vote lays bare sharp, post-coup divisions

By HAMZA HENDAWI and  
MAGGIE MICHAEL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CAIRO** (AP)—A referendum on a new constitution laid bare the sharp divisions in Egypt six months after the military removed the elected Islamist president, with pro-army voters lining up Tuesday outside polling stations, singing patriotic songs, kissing images of Egypt's top officer and sharing upbeat hopes for their troubled nation.

Sporadic violence flared across much of the country, leaving 11 dead, with protesters burning tires and pelting police with rocks and firebombs creating just enough tension to keep many voters at home.

Still, the first of two days of voting yielded telling signs that the national sentiment was overwhelmingly behind military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, whose possible presidential run later this year has grown more likely by the day. That a career army officer might be Egypt's next president has raised questions about the future of democracy in Egypt, but it also speaks to the fatigue felt by most Egyptians after three years of deadly

### Egypt's quest for democracy

*Egyptians are voting on a new constitution to replace the one passed under Islamist President Mohammed Morsi before he was ousted. The new charter could pave the way for elections.*

#### Events since Mubarak stepped down

- Feb. 11, 2011 President Hosni Mubarak steps down amid protests; military council begins running country's affairs
- Nov. 28 Parliamentary voting begins
- Jan. 23, 2012 New parliament holds first session after elections in which Muslim Brotherhood is biggest winner
- June 15 Armed forces dissolve Parliament, issue interim constitution
- June 30 Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohammed Morsi takes office as president
- August Morsi strips military of say in legislation and in drafting new constitution
- Nov. Morsi declares himself above the judiciary; sets Dec. 15 vote on constitution
- Dec. Constitution approved
- July 3, 2013 Military deposes Morsi, dissolves constitution
- Jan. 14, 2014 Voting begins on new constitution



#### Main points of new constitution

- President can serve two four-year terms, may be impeached by parliament
- Islam remains state religion, but religious freedom is guaranteed, protecting minorities
- Equality between men and women is guaranteed
- Political parties can not be formed based on "religion, race, gender or geography"
- Defense minister to be appointed by military for next eight years

*Critics say new constitution favors military over the people*

© 2014 MCT  
Source: Chicago Tribune, BBC

turmoil and economic woes.

Standing in line to cast his ballot, Ismail Mustafa said he was voting "yes" in the hope of ending the turmoil that has engulfed Egypt since the 2011 ouster of the country's longtime autocratic ruler Hosni Mubarak.

"This is it, we have had it. I will vote 'yes' even if it is the last thing I do," Mustafa declared outside a Cairo polling station.

This week's balloting is a key milestone in a military-backed political roadmap toward new elections for a president and a parliament after the July 3 coup

that left the nation sharply divided between Brotherhood supporters in one camp, and the military and security forces in another, backed by a large segment of the population that is yearning for stability after three years of turmoil.

It is taking place in a climate of fear and paranoia, with authorities, the mostly pro-military media and a significant number of Egyptians showing little or no tolerance for dissent. Campaigning for a "no" vote risked arrest by the police. Egyptians who have voiced their opposition to the

charter, or even just parts of it, are quickly labeled as traitors.

Nearly 400,000 soldiers and policemen fanned out across the nation of some 90 million people on Tuesday to protect voters against possible attacks by militants loyal to Morsi. Cars were prevented from parking or driving by polling centers and women were searched by female police officers. Military helicopters hovered over Cairo and other major cities, while grim-faced, black-clad masked commandos stood guard outside polling centers.

## Nobel laureates pen open letter to Putin

**LONDON** (AP)—Actor Ian McKellen and 27 Nobel laureates have written an open letter urging Russia's president to repeal an anti-gay law and expressing their solidarity with critics of the legislation.

The letter—published Tuesday by the Independent newspaper—comes in the run-up to the Sochi Olympics, which have been the focus of a backlash in the West regarding the law.

Passed last year, Russia's law bans promotion of "non-traditional sexual relations" to minors and has prompted calls by gay activists and others for a boycott of the games, which begin Feb. 7.

McKellan—known to millions as Gandalf in the "Lord

of the Rings" and "Hobbit" films—wrote the letter with his friend, chemist Harold Kroto.

They said the letter was written to show the scientific community's "solidarity" with politicians, artists, athletes and others who have already "expressed their abhorrence" over Russia's actions toward its gay citizens.

"Protest is never easy, but we hope that by expressing opposition to the new legislation it might be possible to encourage the Russian state to embrace the 21st century humanitarian, political and inclusive democratic principles, which Mikhail Gorbachev worked so hard to achieve," they said in the letter.

It is not the first time McKellen, who is openly gay, has spoken out about the law.

Last month, the 74-year-old actor said the British government advised him not to go to Russia, and he expressed disbelief about the law's application "in the land of Tchaikovsky, Diaghilev, Rudolf Nureyev—gay artists whose sexuality informed their work."

## French president admits problems in personal life

**PARIS** (AP)—French President Francois Hollande conceded Tuesday that he is going through "painful moments" with his companion, who was hospitalized after a magazine reported that he is secretly having an affair with a movie actress.

But the Socialist Hollande, who has some of the lowest approval ratings of a French leader, sidestepped specifics about his personal life and tried to devote his annual presidential news conference to his plan for reviving France's struggling economy.

Hollande's partner, journalist Valerie Trierweiler, has been hospitalized since Friday, when the tabloid-style magazine Closer published photos it said proved Hollande's liaison with actress Julie Gayet around the corner from the presidential Elysee Palace.

Hollande said Trierweiler "is resting" but insisted that the packed news conference was not the place to discuss the issue.

He did not deny or confirm the Closer report, but his announcement Tuesday of eco-

nomic measures meant to encourage hiring was overshadowed by the scandal.

The first reporter to speak asked Hollande who is France's first lady.

The president brushed aside the question in a country where the private lives of leaders have long been considered private. But he suggested that his relationship with Trierweiler was in a crisis stage.

"Everyone in his or her personal life can go through ordeals—that's the case with us," he said. "They are painful moments. But I have a principle. It's that private affairs should be handled privately, respecting the intimacy of all. This is neither the place nor the moment to do so."

Hollande said he would respond to the question before his Feb. 11 state visit to Washington, a trip that would normally include Trierweiler.

In Washington, White House spokesman Jay Carney hedged awkwardly when asked if there were any changes to plans for the visit by Hollande and his partner.

"The president looks forward to seeing President Hollande. ... On issues of the delegation that the French come with, I would refer you to the French government," Carney said.

The Closer report showed photos of a man it identified as Hollande. He was wearing a motorcycle helmet and being ferried on the back of a small scooter to an alleged tryst with Gayet.

Asked whether his security was compromised, Hollande said, "My security is assured everywhere, and at any moment. When I travel officially ... and when I travel on a private basis, I have protection that is less suffocating. But I am protected everywhere."

After the news conference, Hollande visited with several journalists in a private Elysee office, appearing relaxed and saying he was satisfied with the news conference. He said he was not surprised about the questions about his private life, but refused further comment on it.

Trierweiler is the first person not married to the president to hold the post of first lady, which is not a formal function in France.

### IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

## †Cornelio Taitano Castro

*Lovingly known as "Nelung"*

Born: September 26, 1938 – Died: January 06, 2014

*In his new life, Cornelio will be met at the gates of heaven by his:*

**Parents:** †Jose Camacho Castro & †Rosa Ilo Taitano Aldan

**Reared Parents:** †Vicente Matagolai & †Isabel Taitano Olupomar

**Step-father:** †Jesus A. Aldan

**Children:** †Steven Villagomez Castro, †Josephine Villagomez Castro

**Grand Child:** †Leon Jerad Castro Pullon

**Great Grand Child:** †Devine Lorraine C. Castro

**Parents In Law:** †Eugenio Cruz & †Ana Tenorio Villagomez

**Brothers & Sisters:** †Maria Taitano, †Danet Taitano, †Tedoru Taitano, †Maria Taitano, †Fermina C.

Palacios, †Joaquin T. Aldan, †David T. Aldan, †Juan T. Aldan

**Sisters In-Law:** †Maria N. Aldan, †Federica V. Diaz, †Romana L. Villagomez, †Maria C. Dela Cruz

**Brothers In-Law:** †Juan M. Diaz, † Jose I. Torres, †Manuel Dela Cruz, †Herman C. Villagomez,

†Jose C. Villagomez

*His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:*

**Wife:** Joaquina Villagomez Castro

**Children:**

Justina & Enrico N. Pullon

Eugenio & Leonina Castro (Jacqueline, Eugenio II & Keomi [Eugenio III], Edward & Ethan)

Ana & Edward Cepeda (Edward, Elliot & Eric)

Gloria & Herbert Nauta (Brenda [Aubreyl], Patricia & John Jr. [Caitlinn & Daunte], Cornelius & Justine)

Anthony & Monica Castro (Kyle, Keoni, Kelvin, Keiana, Kenneth)

Raymond & Tricia Castro (Jordan, Josephine & Joseph)

Cornelius & Lisa Castro (Tatiana)

**Brothers & Sisters:** Jose & Margarita Castro; Jesus & Teresita Aldan; Escolastica & Francisco Agusto;

Juliana & Juan Cabrera; Vicente & Dolores Aldan; Augustin & Olivia Aldan

**Brothers In-Law & Sisters In-Law:** Francisco S. Palacios; Merced & Raphael Reyes; Agnes M.

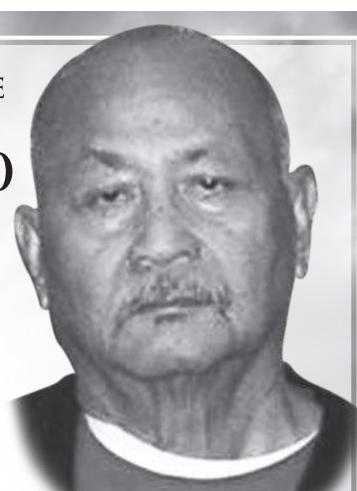
Villagomez; Joy Villagomez and Bernadita V. Torres.

**Numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends will also miss him dearly.**

Last respect and final viewing will be on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at Mt. Carmel Cathedral starting at 9:00am. Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00pm followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your Prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

**Joaquina V. Castro and Children**



Hollande

# Environment

## India scrambles to save its tigers from a deadly virus



In this Friday, Jan. 10, 2014 photo, an Indian worker holds two lion cubs at Patna Zoo, in Patna, India.

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—India is scrambling to protect its beleaguered tiger population after several big cats tested positive for a virus common among dogs but deadly to other carnivores, experts said.

In the last year, canine distemper virus has killed at least four tigers and several other animals across northern and eastern India, according to Rajesh Gopal of the government's National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The revelation is bad news for wild tigers—already endangered by rampant poaching and shrinking habitat as India undergoes breakneck development to accommodate the staggering growth of its 1.2 billion people.

That same economic development and population growth means more people—and more dogs—are coming even closer to wildlife.

In the last case, forest guards said they saw the animal in a confused state before it died,” he said.

Experts said there are likely more undetected cases, since testing for canine distemper has not been routine and few animals that die in the wild are ever found.

Canine distemper virus, a close relative of measles, is associated mostly with domestic dogs though it has infected—and ravaged—other carnivore populations.

It brought the U.S. black-footed ferret to the brink of extinction in the late 1970s. In Tanzania in 1994, an epidemic likely introduced by tourists' dogs wiped out at least a third of the 3,000-strong African lion population in Serengeti National Park.

The possibility of a disease like canine distemper hitting the world's last population of wild Asiatic lions was a major consideration in last year's Indian Supreme Court's decision ordering Gujarat state to safeguard the species by transferring some lions to a second, faraway sanctuary.

## Protect your health: Test your home for radon gas »21,000 radon-related lung cancer deaths each year

**WASHINGTON**—As Americans across the country look for ways to improve their health this New Year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is highlighting radon testing and mitigation as a simple and affordable step to significantly reduce the risk for lung cancer.

Radon is a natural colorless, odorless radioactive gas, and is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, but testing for radon and reducing elevated levels when they are found can make your home healthier and safer.

“Testing for radon is an easy and affordable way to protect your

family's health,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. “Radon is a radioactive gas that can be found in homes all across the country; the only way know if your home has high levels is to test it.”

Part of EPA's radon action campaign is to remind people to “Test, Fix, Save a Life,” and to recognize every January as radon action month.

■ **TEST:** All homes with or without basements should be tested for radon. Affordable Do-It-Yourself radon test kits are available online and at home improvement and hardware stores, or you can hire a qualified radon tester.

■ **FIX:** EPA recommends taking action to fix radon levels at or above 4 picoCuries per Liter (pCi/L) and contacting a qualified radon-reduction contractor. In most cases, a system with a vent pipe and fan is used to reduce radon. Addressing high radon levels often costs the same as other minor home repairs.

■ **SAVE A LIFE:** 21,000 Americans die from radon related lung cancer each year. By fixing elevated levels in your home, you can help prevent lung cancer while creating a healthier home for you and your family. Taking action to test and fix high levels of radon gas is not only

a strong investment for your health, but also for your home.

Radon test results are a positive selling point for those putting a house on the market and in many areas is a required part of real estate transactions.

In addition, if you are looking to build a new home, there are now are safer and healthier radon-resistant construction techniques that home buyers can discuss with builders to prevent this health hazard.

More information on how to test, find a qualified radon professional, obtain a test kit or contact your state radon office is available at <http://www.epa.gov/radon> or by calling 1-800-SOS-RADON. (EPA)

## In Celebration of His New Life †Nicolas Quidachai Muñá Loving known as “Tun Kulas Margarita”

Born: October 17, 1918 – Died: January 11, 2014

*In his new life, he now join his:*

Wife:	†Margarita Tudela Camacho Muñá
Sons:	†Francisco C. Muñá, †Nicolas C. Muñá, †Olympio C. Muñá
Parents:	†Jose Duenas Muñá & †Ana Quidachai Muñá
Parents In Law:	†Antonio Palacios Camacho & †Maria Tudela Camacho
Sisters:	†Luisa Muñá Camacho, †Victoria Muñá Benavente, †Cornelia Q. Muñá
Brothers:	†Jose Q. Muñá, †Juan Q. Muñá
Brothers and Sisters In Laws:	†Lorenzo T. Camacho, †Jose T. Camacho, †Jesus T. Camacho, †Pedro T. Camacho, † Concepcion C. Muña, †Cecilia T. Camacho, † Romana T. Camacho, †Baleriana T. Camacho, †Victoria Ch. Camacho, †Juana L. Camacho, †Rita S. Camacho, † Antonia S. Camacho, †Carmen S. Camacho, †Rosario I. Camacho, †Jose A. Muñá, †Cresencia T. Muñá, †Dolores C. Muñá, †Pedro R. Camacho, †Antonio M. Benavente



*His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:*

**Children and Families:**

**Antonio Camacho Muñá / Maria P. Muñá** (Frankie/Rosie LG. Muñá, Tina Marie/Francisco C. Aguon, Anthony/Trinidad S. Muñá, Kenneth/Maria C. Muñá, Nick/Esther L. Muñá, Joycelyn/Francisco A. Reyes, Dwayne P. Muñá, Joseph/Linda B. Muñá, Ly'ana P. Muñá, Joseph P. Muñá, Jr.)

**Cecilia Muñá Villagomez / Roman T. Villagomez** (Maria Margarita Villagomez/Jason Leon Guerrero, Antonette Carmen/Jesse James Teigita, Jose Roman Villagomez/Virginia Cruz)

**Jesus Camacho Muñá / Dorothea C. Muñá** (†Jesus C. Muñá, Jr., Geraldine/Mark Mendiola, Caroline/Jered Lutu, Alfred/Grace Muñá)

**Jose Camacho Muñá / Janet I. Muñá** (Jessica/Michael Manglona, Marie I. Muñá, Joanna/Peter Damian, Joey I Muñá)

**Maria Muñá McDill / Henry McDill** (Katherine, Geraldine/Butch Wisehart, Glenn, Mathew, Douglas, Robert)

**Cornelia Camacho Muñá**

**Delfina Camacho Muñá** (Glenn Paul/Elisa S. Muñá)

**Ana Muñá Sablan / Herman P. Sablan** (Leolani/Cory Starks, Kolin M. Reyes/Rose Deleon Guerrero, Marvin Reyes, Ashley/Ryan Tudela)

**Francisco Camacho Muñá / Joyce Muñá** (Meagan, Margaret, Cheyenne)

**Maria Margarita Muñá Reyes / Joseph A. Reyes** (Rosie/Sylvan Cabrera, Joseph Jr., Jeffrey, Julian/Jeding, Roman)

**†Olympio Camacho Muñá** (Justin Keith, Olympio Jr./Kenza Faisao, Nick Atanacio, Mary Margaret)

**Merced Camacho Muñá / Isidro R. Sablan** (Jolene Nicole, Robert Herman, Sidney John, Nick Jesse)

**Our Tata is additionally survived by 96 Great Grandchildren and 24 Great-Great Grandchildren.**

Daily Mass of Intentions are celebrated each evening at St Jude Church, Koblerville at 6:00pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am. Interment Services will be at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery-Marpi, Saipan where he will join his beloved wife †Margarita at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers!

**Children and families of the late  
†Nicolas Quidachai Muna and †Margarita Tudela Camacho Muna**

# Life & Style

## Filipina caregiver is Israel's X-Factor winner

A Filipina caregiver is the unlikely winner of Israel's first ever season of *The X Factor*.

The win comes as a surprise for Rose Fostanes, 47, who was one of four finalists and the only foreign contestant on the show.

"Thank you so much for those Israeli who like my voice

... thank you for giving me the chance to be in *The X Factor Israel*," Fostanes said after she won. She also thanked the thousands of Filipinos who supported her.

She won the popular reality TV singing contest with an emotional rendition of Frank Sinatra's

*My Way*, and sung Alicia Keys' *If I Ain't Got You* in a duet with her mentor Shiri Maimon.

Comparisons have already been made to between Fostanes and Scottish singer Susan Boyle, who shot to stardom after performing a powerful rendition of *I Dreamed a Dream* from the

musical *Les Misérables*.

Boyle's giddy rise from unknown to multi-million-selling recording artist has been made into a musical.

At first Fostanes didn't believe that Israelis would vote for her as she was one of a multitude of faceless foreign workers in the country.

"It's a big change in my life because before nobody recognized me, nobody knew me. But now everybody, I think everybody in Israel knows my name. And it is very funny," she told AP last week.

However she won over audiences around the country with her booming voice, belting out

"I feel that everybody is looking at me like I was an alien,"

she said to another contestant on one of the early audition episodes of the show. "A Filipina working here, cleaning houses."

To many Israeli the word "Filipipi" has become synonymous with "caregiver".

However the stereotype is likely to change with Fostanes' remarkable win.

"I think I will be a leader for them because of what I did and I think also they will be proud of me," she told Reuters before the finals. "Everybody in the world will know that Filipinos, even working as a cleaner ... can also share their talents." (*Sydney Morning Herald*)



In this Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014 photo, Rose Fostanes sings during a rehearsal of the X-Factor Israel in Tel Aviv.

### Detectives search Bieber home in egg-tossing case

CALABASAS, Calif. (AP)—Detectives searched Justin Bieber's home looking for surveillance footage that might serve as evidence the pop star was involved in an egg-tossing vandalism case that caused thousands of dollars in damage to a neighbor's home, an official said Tuesday.

Roughly a dozen investigators searched Bieber's home and arrested one member of the singer's entourage on suspicion of drug possession, Lt. David Thompson said.

The drug, which was initially described as cocaine but was later being tested to determine its contents, was

in plain sight when detectives searched Bieber's house, Thompson said.

The arrested man was later identified as Lil Za, a rapper whose real name is Xavier Smith.

After being taken to jail, Smith had felony vandalism added to his potential charges and had his bail increased from \$20,000 to \$70,000 when he damaged a phone on the wall as he was awaiting a bail bondsman, said Lt. Michael Williams of the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station.

Smith was released on bail at about 8:15 p.m., Williams said. Phone listings for Smith, his

representative or relatives could not be found, and sheriff's officials did not know if he had hired an attorney.

Bieber, 19, was at the home and cooperated with authorities but was not interviewed by detectives. Thompson said he expected the singer to speak with detectives when his attorney could be present.

"He has not been arrested, nor has he been exonerated," Thompson said of Bieber.

Thompson declined to describe what evidence detectives took from Bieber's home, but said the emphasis wasn't on what was in the pop star's refrigerator.

### Bundchen says stress low at home during playoffs

NEW YORK (AP)—It may be NFL playoff time in the Tom Brady-Gisele Bundchen household, but the stress doesn't carry over at home.

"He's very focused," the 33-year-old Bundchen said of Brady, quarterback for the New England Patriots, in a recent interview. "We are both very supportive of one another in what we do. ... Of course nobody likes to lose. Those aren't the best days. He knows he does his best. He works extremely hard."



Bundchen

model says the couple winds down differently.

"At night if my husband is watching TV and watching football, I have my little book and I put something in my ears

so I don't hear it and I put my light (on) and have my book and I'm like, 'Ohhh.' He's feeding his soul and that's important to him to watch football. I only want to watch if I'm watching him," she joked.

And win or lose, family comes first. Brady has a 6-year-old son, John, whose mother is actress Bridget Moynahan. Bundchen and Brady have a 4-year-old son, Ben, and a 1-year-old daughter, Vivian.

"He's very loving and it's a wonderful thing. In our house

we are very affectionate," she said. "I think it's very important for the boys to know that it's OK to hug and to kiss and you're not less than a man."

Bundchen was recently named a brand ambassador for Pantene hair products. She's worked with the company in Brazil since 2007.

When she's not working, Bundchen says she doesn't have much time to put into her locks and laughs that her go-to style is a "sleek bun."

She doesn't even own a hairbrush.

"In my job you have to remember people are brushing my hair every day. You have to remember the last thing I want (on a day off) is a brush in my hair!"

Bundchen says she's committed to being healthy and treating her body right in order to look and feel her best.

### CHART TOPPERS

*The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Jan. 13, 2014:*

#### TOP SONGS

1. "Dark Horse (feat. Juicy J)", Katy Perry
2. "Timber (feat. Ke\$ha)", Pitbull
3. "Say Something", Christina Aguilera
4. "Counting Stars", OneRepublic
5. "The Monster (feat. Rihanna)", Eminem
6. "Let Her Go", Passenger
7. "The Man", Aloe Blacc
8. "Team", Lorde
9. "Pompeii", Bastille
10. "Let It Go", Idina Menzel

#### TOP ALBUMS

1. "Frozen", Various Artists
2. "BEYONCÉ", Beyoncé
3. "My Own Lane", Kid Ink
4. "Pure Heroine", Lorde
5. "The Marshall Mathers LP2", Eminem
6. "Midnight Memories", One Direction
7. "Bangerz", Miley Cyrus
8. "Night Visions", Imagine

Dragons

9. "Nothing Was the Same", Drake
10. "Bad Blood", Bastille

*Spotify's Top 10 most streamed tracks from Monday, Jan. 6, to Sunday Jan. 12:*

1. A Great Big World, "Say Something" (Epic Records)
2. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse" (Capitol Records)
3. Pitbull, "Timber" (RCA Records)
4. OneRepublic, "Counting Stars" (Interscope Records)
5. Lorde, "Royals" (Republic Records)
6. Eminem, "The Monster ft. Rihanna" (Aftermath Records)
7. Lorde, "Team" (Republic Records)
8. Passenger, "Let Her Go" (Black Crow Records/Nettwerk)
9. Bastille, "Pompeii" (Virgin Records Ltd)
10. Avicii, "Wake Me Up" (Avicii Music AB)

*Spotify's Top 10 most viral*

*tracks, based on the number of people who shared it divided by the number who listened to it, from Monday, Jan. 6, to Sunday, Jan. 13, via Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter and Spotify:*

1. Young the Giant, "Mind Over Matter" (Fueled by Ramen)
2. Silversun Pickups, "Cannibal" (Dangerbird Records)
3. Oscar Isaac, Marcus Mumford, "Fare Thee Well (Dink's Song)" from Inside Llewyn Davis: Original Soundtrack Record" (Nonesuch Records)
4. Hozier, "Take Me To Church" (Rubyworks)
5. Aloe Blacc, "The Man" (XIX Recordings/Interscope)
6. Mapei, "Don't Wait" (Downtown Records)
7. Courtney Barnett, "Avant Gardener" (Marathon Artists)
8. Phantogram, "Fall in Love" (Republic Records)
9. Vance Joy, "Riptide" (Infectious Music UK)
10. Lucy Hale, "You Sound Good to Me" (Hollywood Records)

## Billy Bob Thornton says TV's a haven for actors

**PASADENA, California** (AP)—Billy Bob Thornton said actors who want to work on sophisticated projects are finding them in television and not film.

He's proving the point with a starring role in the upcoming FX series "Fargo," inspired by the 1996 Joel and Ethan Coen movie.

Thornton told a Television Critics Association meeting Tuesday that while Hollywood studios churn out action movies, broad comedies and "movies where apparently vampires are all models," TV offers the kind of insightful work once common in films.



**Thornton**

He says that's why peers like Kevin Costner, Dennis Quaid and Kevin Bacon have turned to television.

"The entertainment business can pretend all they want, but the movie world has changed drastically, particularly in the last five or six years," said Thornton, who won a best-screenplay Oscar for "Sling Blade" and was nominated for his role in the 1996 film.

"If you want to be an actor, get on a really good series in television because there's where it's at," said Thornton, whose neatly groomed hair contrasted with striped pants decorated with buttons, embellished cowboy boots and a sleeveless black T-shirt that showed numerous arm tattoos.

"Fargo" also stars Martin Freeman of "Sherlock" and the "Hobbit" films. It debuts in April on FX.

## Gaye children, Sony settle in 'Blurred Lines' case

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Marvin Gaye's children have settled claims against a music company owned by Sony over Robin Thicke's Grammy-nominated hit song "Blurred Lines."

The Gayes had accused EMI of not pursuing a copyright infringement case against Thicke because "Blurred Lines" has similarities to Gaye's "Got to Give It Up."

A Los Angeles judge on Tuesday granted Nona Marvin Gaye and Frankie Christian Gaye's dismissal of their

# Police investigate Kanye West for possible battery

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—Beverly Hills police say they're investigating Kanye West for misdemeanor battery after a man accused the rapper of attacking him.

Sgt. George DeMarois says several witnesses identified West as being involved in an altercation around 12:15 p.m. on Monday at an office on exclusive Wilshire Boulevard. The rapper had left the premises by the time officers arrived.

Police said Tuesday they



**West**

## 'Justified' actor calls on Elmore Leonard's memory

**PASADENA, California** (AP)—Walton Goggins says he relied on the memory of Elmore Leonard to help him through a tough day on the set of TV's "Justified."

Goggins, who plays Boyd Crowder on the crime drama, described a chair left empty on the set after the author died in August. "Justified" has its roots in Leonard's colorful fiction.

When he struggled with one scene, as Goggins described it

Tuesday to the Television Critics Association, he decided, "I'm just going to sit down in your chair, Leonard." ... Without getting spiritual, it was very special, very comforting."

When those involved with "Justified" look back on the show, "it will be a big deal to say you were part of a literary giant's career," Goggins said.

Timothy Olyphant, who stars as Deputy U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens, said the writer's memo-



**Goggins**

were releasing further details and Blair Berk, an attorney representing West in another case, declined comment.

West was charged last year with misdemeanor battery and attempted grand theft after a fight with a photographer at Los Angeles International Airport. He's pleaded not guilty in the case.

The photographer has sued West for assault and battery. West's attorneys stated that West was in fear for his safety.

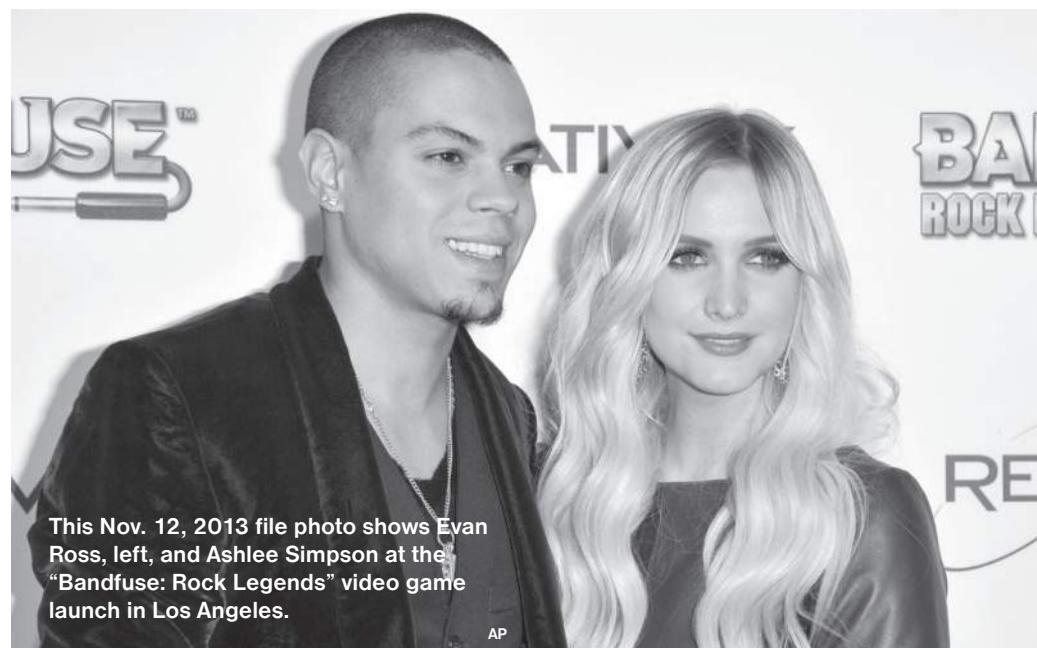
ry is not oppressive.

"I love the man. He's going to be greatly missed," Olyphant said. But, he added, "I don't feel it hanging over the show. I feel blessed to be able to do the show, and he got a kick out of it."

"Justified" is airing its fifth season and will end after season six, the producers and FX confirmed.

Although there were financial incentives to keep it going, said producer Graham Yost, "it really felt, in terms of the story of Raylan Givens in Kentucky, that six years felt about right."

## Ashlee Simpson engaged to marry Diana Ross' son



This Nov. 12, 2013 file photo shows Evan Ross, left, and Ashlee Simpson at the "Bandfuse: Rock Legends" video game launch in Los Angeles.

AP

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Ashlee Simpson is ready to give marriage another try.

The actress and singer is engaged to boyfriend Evan Ross, who is the son of Diana Ross.

The pair announced the news

Monday on Twitter and it was confirmed by Simpson's publicist, Janet Ringwood.

Twenty-nine year old Simpson and 25-year-old Ross went public as a couple last summer.

Simpson was previously mar-

ried to Fall Out Boy bassist Pete Wentz. They have a 5-year-old son, Bronx.

Evan Ross is an actor who will appear in the final two film installments of "The Hunger Games."

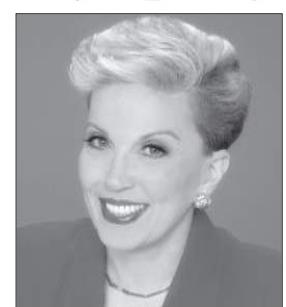
used Gaye's "After the Dance" for his No. 1 R&B hit "Love After War."

Representatives for Sony and Thicke didn't immediately reply to emails seeking comment on Tuesday. A representative for Gaye's children said in a statement they hope "the infringement claims will be resolved swiftly and in an appropriate manner."

Marvin Gaye, whose other hit songs include "Sexual Healing" and "Let's Get It On," was shot dead by his father in 1984. The family's statement said they plan on celebrating the late singer's 75th birthday this year.

## Man's reticence about sex puts relationship in jeopardy

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been seeing a guy, "Karl," for eight months now, and we have never had sex. After two or three months, I brought up the subject. He said he was stressed because he had just lost his job. He also said there is never any privacy at his place because he has roommates/tenants. I offered to go to my place, but he said that with my son there, it's the same issue.

Karl says he's very attracted to me, but doesn't want our "time" together to be ruined by his current money problems. I told him I understood and I have waited. I also explained that it makes me feel insecure and unwanted.

He now has a job, but we still haven't had sex. He has, in the interim, told me he loves me and wants to marry me. I constantly worry that there's someone else and wonder what's wrong with me. I love Karl, too, but I don't know what to do. Please help.

LOVE, BUT NO SEX IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR LOVE, BUT:** Is there any intimacy AT ALL in your relationship with Karl? Is he affectionate? Is there any physical response when he holds and kisses you? If the answer is no, your boyfriend may have a physical or emotional problem, be asexual or gay.

Before agreeing to marry him, I recommend you schedule some time alone together by spending a few romantic weekends at a hotel or motel. It may give you a better idea of what your future would be like if you two decide the tie the knot.

■ ■ ■  
**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 30-year-old gay man who works in an office with 20 women. In the five years I have worked here, many of my co-workers have either gotten married or had children.

Our office has a tradition of throwing showers for the lucky ladies, and I am always asked to contribute money toward food for the party or an extravagant gift.

While I'm happy to donate to a charity or help a friend in need, I wonder if a wedding or a baby shower would be given for ME? Am I selfish for feeling hesitant to donate money or gifts when it's likely the favor will never be returned?

MINORITY MALE IN TEXAS

**DEAR MINORITY:** I don't think you are selfish for feeling the way you do. In fact, it's understandable. However, in the case of a wedding or baby shower, people give gifts as a way of offering congratulations and good wishes. And I would hope that, even if same-sex marriage isn't recognized by the state of Texas, that your co-workers would do something to honor you if you had a spiritual ceremony, which some religious denominations offer.

■ ■ ■  
**DEAR ABBY:** I am turning 60 and naturally looking a little "worn." My man friend keeps telling me I need a facelift and to lose 10 pounds, so I'm starting to save my money. Something tells me he wants a "hot chick" and thinks he'll have one once I get these procedures done. It's expensive. What do you think?

LOOSE-FACED LOUISIANAN

**DEAR LOUISIANAN:** It's not only expensive; as with any other major surgery, there is some risk involved. If you had said you wanted cosmetic surgery because YOU thought you needed it, I would say to go ahead. However, if it's only because your man friend is pushing you, then he should save HIS money and offer to foot the bill.

**P.S.** He must be an optimist because there is no guarantee that with 10 pounds off and a new face you wouldn't start looking for a younger man. Some women do.

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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# Grizzlies beat Thunder 90-87 in Gasol's return

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP)—The Memphis Grizzlies celebrated the return of Marc Gasol with a victory over one of the league's top teams—and one of their biggest rivals.

Courtney Lee scored a season-high 24 points, including the closing two free throws, and the Grizzlies beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 90-87 on Tuesday night in Gasol's first game in almost eight weeks.

While Lee provided the early offensive punch for Memphis, many teammates were talking about the return of the Gasol, the league's reigning Defensive Player of the Year, who missed 23 games with a left knee injury. The 7-foot-1 center played 24 minutes and finished with 12 points.

"Everybody is excited, especially for him," said guard Mike Conley, who had 19 points and seven assists in Memphis' third straight victory. "He's been itching to get out there forever, and I thought he did great. It gave us a good boost."

Gasol, whose return was not announced until just before the game, received a rousing ovation from the Memphis crowd when he was introduced with the starting lineup. He said the cheers gave him "goose bumps" and made him feel like a rookie again. He said the knee did not bother him, but the large knee brace he is wearing is uncomfortable.

"It felt really good, especially since we got the win," Gasol said of the knee. "That makes everything worth it."

Zach Randolph had 23 points and 13 rebounds on the night his inside partner returned.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 37 points, converting 15 of 28 shots. Reggie Jackson scored 17, but also committed seven of Oklahoma City's 19 turnovers. Serge Ibaka finished with 11 points and four blocks as the Thunder lost their third in the last four.

Durant, who has dealt with an aching left wrist and did not practice Monday, had ice on it after the game, but said he did not aggravate the injury.

Lee converted a 22-footer from the right wing as time ran out in the third period to help Memphis carry a 72-67 lead into the final frame.

Memphis, which trailed 47-43 at the break, converted 10 of 18 shots in the third, while the Thunder managed only 9 of 22. That led to the Grizzlies outscoring Oklahoma City 29-20 in the period.

Memphis still held the lead at 87-84 with less than a minute left. Jackson missed a 4-foot runner, then Gasol missed a 7-footer in the lane for Memphis. Oklahoma City



Memphis Grizzlies forward Courtney Lee (5) shoots against Oklahoma City Thunder guard Jeremy Lamb (11) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, in Memphis, Tenn. The Grizzlies won 90-87.

had the ball after a timeout with 20 seconds left. Durant drove and kicked the ball out to Ibaka, who missed a 3-pointer from the left corner.

"I seen (the defender) come off of Serge and he was wide open, and I trust him 100 percent," Durant said. "That shot looked good, but it hit the side

rim and rimmed out.

"Great shot. We've just got to live with the results."

Randolph split a pair of free throws with 10.6 seconds remaining for an 88-84 lead, enough that Ibaka's 3-pointer with 4.6 seconds left wasn't enough.

Lee's free throws provided

the final margin.

"Courtney Lee had his way," Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said. "We didn't do a good job of starting the game off on him. Throughout the game, he sprinkled in some good shots."

The Thunder weathered an early burst of points from Lee, who had 14 in the first

quarter as Memphis built a 12-point lead.

Oklahoma City erased the advantage with a 15-1 rally spanning the first and second quarters.

## Pacers 116, Kings 92

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 31 points, making four 3-pointers, as Indiana snapped Sacramento's three-game winning streak.

David West had 16 points and eight rebounds, and Lance Stephenson added 13 points, five rebounds and five assists for the Pacers (30-7), who have won five of six.

The victory clinched the Eastern Conference coaching spot for Frank Vogel, since the Pacers are guaranteed to have the best winning percentage in the conference through games of Feb. 2 with Miami's Erik Spoelstra ineligible after coaching last year.

DeMarcus Cousins had 31 points and 13 rebounds, and Rudy Gay scored 12 points for the Kings (13-23), who scored under 100 points for the first time in 12 games.

## Bobcats 108, Knicks 98

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Al Jefferson scored a season-high 35 points and Kemba Walker had 12 of his 25 in the fourth quarter as Charlotte snapped New York's five-game winning streak.

The Bobcats were in need of a win after losing three straight games and eight of their last 10.

Walker was 4 of 4 from the field in the fourth quarter, including 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions. He also finished with seven rebounds and five assists.

Gerald Henderson chipped in with 17 points for Charlotte (16-23), and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had eight points and seven rebounds after sitting out the last 19 games with a broken left hand.

Carmelo Anthony had 20 points and six rebounds as the Knicks (15-23) lost in Tyson Chandler's return to the lineup after missing four games with bronchitis.

## Cavaliers 120, Lakers 118

In Los Angeles, Luol Deng hit five 3-pointers while scoring 27 points, Anderson Varejao added 18 points and 18 rebounds, and Cleveland beat spiraling Los Angeles.

Dion Waiters scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter as the Cavaliers improved to 4-16 on the road. They also won for coach Mike Brown in his return to Staples Center to face the Lakers, who fired him early last season.

Jodie Meeks hit six 3-pointers while scoring a season-high 26 points in injury-plagued Los Angeles' fifth straight defeat. Nick Young scored 28 points, but the Lakers have lost 11 of 12 heading into a punishing seven-game road trip.

## Obama honors Miami Heat for 2nd straight NBA title

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—For President Barack Obama, seeing the Miami Heat at the White House on Tuesday was like déjà vu.

A year after congratulating LeBron James and company on winning their second league title, Obama was doing it again. And so soon.

James, Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh, their teammates and coaches, earned another White House visit by following that championship win with another last year. They topped the San Antonio Spurs in series that went the full seven games. A big basketball fan and recreational player, Obama described in detail how the Heat rallied from behind with less than a minute on the clock to win Game 6 before clinching in the seventh.

"This group has now won twice but it's gone to the

finals three times and, sometimes, it feels like they're still fighting for a little respect," Obama said, adding: "I can relate to that."

The Heat won NBA titles in 2006, 2012 and last year.

During an East Room ceremony, Obama also praised the team's off-court actions.

The players visited wounded service members recuperating at an area military hospital before they came to the White House. Obama said it's an example of the charitable work Heat players do year-round, including raising nearly \$2 million last year for charities at home.

"So bottom line is: outstanding athletes, outstanding organization, outstanding team but also outstanding members of their community," Obama said.

He wished them "great luck" for the rest of the cur-



President Barack Obama is given a basketball and jersey by Miami Heat players Ray Allen, left, and Chris Bosh, second from left, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, where the president honored the 2013 NBA Champion basketball team. Behind them are Miami Heat forwards LeBron James, and Dwyane Wade, upper left, team president Pat Riley is at center, and Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra is next to Riley.

rent season, "unless they're playing the (Chicago) Bulls," Obama's hometown and favorite NBA team.

Coach Erik Spoelstra presented Obama with a commemorative championship trophy that lists the players' names as well as Obama's. The president also received an autographed basketball and team jersey with the number "44" and "POTUS" on the back. Obama is the 44th president and "POTUS" is an abbreviation for "president of the United States."

"This is a great honor for the entire Miami Heat family," Spoelstra said. "It does not get old."

The Heat weren't leaving Washington right away. After back-to-back losses, the team will shoot for a win over the Washington Wizards on Wednesday night.

in his fourth season leading the Pacers.

The West coach for the Feb. 16 game in New Orleans is still to be determined. Gregg Popovich, whose San Antonio Spurs lead the West, is ineligible.

## Pacers' Vogel earns East All-Star coaching spot

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Indiana Pacers coach Frank Vogel has clinched the Eastern Conference coaching spot for next

month's NBA All-Star game.

The Pacers improved to 30-7 with their 116-92 victory over Sacramento on Tuesday night,

guaranteeing they will have the best winning percentage in the East among eligible teams. Miami's Erik Spoelstra is in-

eligible after coaching in last year's game.

It will be the first All-Star coaching assignment for Vogel,

# Lions hire ex-Colts coach Jim Caldwell

**D E T R O I T**  
**(A P)** — Jim Caldwell got a ringing endorsement from one of his mentors when Detroit Lions general manager Martin Mayhew was doing his homework.

The Lions hired Caldwell on Tuesday to replace fired coach Jim Schwartz, ending a search that included a phone conversation between Mayhew and Tony Dungy.

"Martin called me and said we're looking for a leader who can help turn our locker room into a winning one and to help us get the most out of our investment in Matthew Stafford," Dungy recalled in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I told Martin that Jim Caldwell is exactly what you're looking for. He'll lead by making people accountable and by being a role model on and off the field. And with his attention to detail and history of developing quarterbacks, Stafford is going to flourish just like Peyton Manning did with us in Indianapolis."

Detroit wanted to replace Schwartz with someone with experience as a head coach, ideally with a track record of tutoring quarterbacks.

Caldwell helped the Indianapolis Colts reach the Super Bowl after his debut season in 2009, but was fired two years later after a 2-14 season while Manning was injured, dropping his three-year mark to 26-22.

Before Caldwell was hired by the Dungy-led Colts in 2002 to be their quarterbacks coach, he had the same job for Dungy with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Caldwell was hired by Baltimore more than two years ago to be their quarterbacks coach and was promoted to offensive coordinator late in the 2012 season. The Ravens went on to win the last Super Bowl.

The Lions will introduce Caldwell as their coach Wednesday during a news conference at Ford Field.

"We believe Jim is the right man to lead our team and deliver a championship to our fans," Lions owner William Clay Ford said in a statement.

The Ravens struggled on offense in 2013 and might've replaced Caldwell if he didn't get another job. Baltimore ranked 29th on offense overall—30th rushing and 18th passing—last season with Super Bowl-winning quarterback Joe Flacco and running back Ray Rice.

Still, Caldwell's body of work was enough to also make him a candidate to lead the Washington Redskins and Titans. Former Tennessee coach Mike Munchak and ex-Houston Texans coach Gary Kubiak were also considered by the Lions.

"I'm excited because he has worked with some good



AP

In this Jan. 30, 2013, file photo, Baltimore Ravens offensive coordinator Jim Caldwell walks onto the field as his team warms up during an NFL Super Bowl XLVII football practice in New Orleans. A person familiar with the situation says the Detroit Lions have hired coach Caldwell.

## Judge: \$765M might not cover NFL concussion claims

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — A federal judge is slowing down the proposed \$765 million settlement of NFL concussion claims, questioning if there's enough money to cover 20,000 retired players.

U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody denied preliminary approval of the plan on Tuesday because she's worried the money could run out sooner than expected. She also raised concerns that anyone who gets concussion damages from the NFL would be barred from suing the NCAA or other amateur football leagues.

"I am primarily concerned that not all retired NFL football players who ultimately receive a qualifying diagnosis or their (families) ... will be paid," the judge wrote.

The proposed settlement, negotiated over several months, is designed to last at least 65 years.

The awards would vary based on an ex-player's age and diagnosis. A younger retiree with Lou Gehrig's disease would get \$5 million, those with serious dementia cases would get \$3 million and an 80-year-old with early dementia would get \$25,000. Retirees without symptoms

would get baseline screening and follow-up care if needed.

"Even if only 10 percent of retired NFL football players eventually receive a qualifying diagnosis," the judge wrote, "it is difficult to see how the Monetary Award Fund would have the funds available over its lifespan to pay all claimants at these significant award levels."

She asked for more raw financial data before scheduling a fairness hearing this year, when objectors can question the plan. The objectors could later decide to opt out of it.

Law professor Gabe Feldman, who directs the sports law program at the Tulane University Law School, called the ruling a setback but said "there's no reason to panic."

"The question remains whether this gives pause to some of the retired players and makes them question whether this is a settlement they want to be a part of," he said.

Some critics said the NFL, with more than \$9 billion in annual revenue, was getting away lightly. But the players' lawyers said they would face huge challenges just to get the case to trial. They would have to prove the injuries

were linked to the players' NFL service and should not be handled through league arbitration. They could end up with nothing.

Sol Weiss, a lead lawyer for the ex-players, remained confident the class action settlement will ultimately be approved. He said he was confident "that there will be enough money to cover these claims for 65 years."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said league officials were "confident that the settlement is fair and adequate and look forward to demonstrating that to the court."

More than 4,500 former players have filed suit, some accusing the league of fraud for its handling of concussions. They include former Dallas Cowboys running back Tony Dorsett and Super Bowl-winning Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, who suffers from dementia.

The judge's hand-picked mediator, former federal judge Layn R. Phillips, led several months of negotiations last year and has called the deal fair to both sides.

The settlement would include \$675 million for com-

Stafford better. Detroit drafted Stafford No. 1 overall in 2009 and after two injury-shortened seasons, he has been spectacular at times and shaky at others.

When the Lions needed him most, he was at his worst last season. He had an NFL-high 14 turnovers from Week 11-16 as Detroit dropped five of six games, plummeting out of first place in the NFC North and wasting an opportunity to win a division title for the first time since 1993.

Caldwell's first job as a head coach was at Wake Forest, which fired him in 2000 with a 26-63 record over eight seasons. Caldwell, who is from Beloit, Wis., played defensive back for Iowa and began his coaching career in 1977 as a graduate assistant with the Hawkeyes.

Caldwell later went on to coach quarterbacks, wide receivers and outside linebackers from 1982-84 for Bill McCartney at Colorado.

"He's one of the finest people I've ever met," McCartney said in a telephone interview. "He has tremendous character. If he says something, you can take it to the bank and hang your hat on it. His players will trust them and they'll rally for him. He's ready for this."

"Every home, every business and every NFL team rises or falls because of leadership. And, the Lions have a leader now."

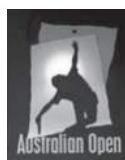
pensatory claims for players with neurological symptoms, \$75 million for baseline testing for asymptomatic men and \$10 million for medical research and education. The NFL also would pay an additional \$112 million to the players' lawyers for their fees and expenses, for a total payout of nearly \$900 million.

The NCAA clause is apparently designed to prevent plaintiffs from double dipping. Feldman said he was unsure why the NFL would insist on that.

Given the judge's ruling, the two sides could offer more evidence the fund would be stable, change the payout formula or perhaps have the NFL add more money to the pot. Otherwise, they may be left to start over.

"I think it's a pretty efficient way of doing things, rather than bring it up for the first time at the fairness hearing," Matt Mitten, who directs the National Sports Law Institute at the Marquette University Law School, said of the judge's opinion. "Some of these guys need the money right now."

# Serena, Djokovic into 3rd round at Aussie Open



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) —

Serena Williams wore a fitted pink blazer into her second-round match at the Australian Open, giving the impression she wasn't feeling the heat.

And after her 6-1, 6-2 win over Vesna Dolonc on Wednesday, the second consecutive scorching day at the season's first major, Williams said she could remember hotter matches.

By extending her winning stretch to 24 matches dating back to August, and improving her career mark to 60-8 at Melbourne Park, she also equaled Margaret Court's record 60 match wins at the Australian Open in the Open era.

Court, who won seven of her 11 Australian titles before the Open era began in 1968, has a

show court named in her honor adjacent to Rod Laver Arena.

On day three at Melbourne Park, the center court was—at least according to the two fans holding up a sign—"Serena's Arena."

The heat topped 40 Celsius (104F) during the 63-minute match, and peaked at just under 42 C (108 F) later during Novak Djokovic's 6-0, 6-4, 6-4 win over Leonardo Mayer. Second-seeded Djokovic, aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win four consecutive Australian Open titles, didn't face a break point.

Williams fended off the only break point she faced with an ace, one of her 10 in the match. She hit 24 winners, sticking to the ideal strategy of keeping the points short on a hot day.

She said didn't even go outside Tuesday because condi-



AP  
Serena Williams, right, of the United States is congratulated by Vesna Dolonc of Serbia following their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014.

tions "were a little bit extreme," adding that the prospect of the scorching temperatures had even interrupted her sleep.

"I kept waking up in the middle of the night last night just paranoid. I just wanted to stay hy-

drated," she said. "The last thing I want to do is to cramp in this weather. It can happen so easily."

Williams next meets No. 31-seeded Daniela Hantuchova, who was on court for 3 hours, 13 minutes in her 6-3, 3-6, 12-10

win over Karolina Pliskova.

Temperatures topped 42 Celsius (108F) on Tuesday, and there were a total of nine retirements in the first round, equaling a Grand Slam record. It wasn't quite as stifling Wednesday, due to some cloud cover and less of the hot wind. The forecast is for the heat wave to continue until Friday.

Li Na opened proceedings Wednesday when she completed back-to-back wins over the two youngest players in the draw.

The 2011 French Open champion, a two-time finalist at Melbourne Park, conceded just 10 points in the first set en route to a 6-0, 7-6 (5) win over 16-year-old Belinda Bencic. Li will play No. 26 Lucie Safarova in the third round.

No. 9 Angelique Kerber advanced to a match against American Alison Riske, who trounced

Yanina Wickmayer 6-1, 6-1. Australian wild-card entry Casey Dellacqua upset No. 18 Kirsten Flipkens 6-3, 6-0.

The tournament's heat rule went into effect in the first match on Margaret Court Arena, giving No. 15-seeded Sabine Lisicki and Monica Niculescu a 10-minute break after the second set.

Niculescu returned to win 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 and will next play No. 22 Ekaterina Makarova, who followed up her first-round win over Venus Williams with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over American Irina Falconi.

No. 28 Flavia Pennetta beat Monica Puig in straight sets to set up a third-round match against Mona Barthel, a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 winner over Thailand's Luk-sika Kumkhum.

On the men's side, Djokovic extended his winning streak to 26 matches but had a brief scare while serving at 3-0 in the first set when he turned over on his left ankle, tumbling to the court.

It didn't warrant medical attention during the next break in play and he took the opening set in just 22 minutes, allowing Mayer to win just eight points.

"It was just I slipped a little bit," Djokovic said. "It was an instant discomfort, but it was OK after."

## TSUNAMI

*From Page 28*

and Tsunami Saipan's Ty Leon Guerrero (1:38.10), while Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko came in at fourth after tallying 1:43.46.

Deleon Guerrero ruled three more individual events to have a rousing debut in the off-island tournament. He won the 25y breaststroke race after completing the event in 24.49 seconds, ahead of Andersen's Riley Solenberg (24.50), Rechucher (25.98), and Wood (33.25). In the 100y individual medley, Deleon Guerrero clocked in at 1:44.52 to beat Xu (1:45.05),

while in the 50y freestyle, the former recorded 36.49 seconds to finish on top of the 12-swimmer field.

In other results, Xu edged five others in the 50y backstroke after registering 45.23 seconds, while Rechucher won over the former in the 50y breaststroke after posting 56.46 seconds. Xu had 57.16 seconds.

In another breaststroke race, Watanabe touched the wall at the 22.95-second mark to place first in the 25y event and defeat Nagata (29.49) and Tsunami Guam's Lolita Blaz (31.82). In the 50y breaststroke, Watanabe logged 48.11 seconds for a runner-up finish behind Tsunami Guam's Risa Hedrix (47.62).

After missing the first place finish in 50y breaststroke, Watanabe bounced back in the next two events, topping the 25y freestyle and 100y IM. She checked in at 18.63 seconds in the 25y freestyle and was the lone swimmer in the group to break the 20-second barrier. Suzuki and Nagata were in the group and finished third and fourth with their 21.87 seconds and 21.91 seconds, respectively.

Then in the 100y IM, Watanabe stunned the favored Hendrix after recording 1:36.78 against the latter's 1:40.38. Dangol rounded out the Top 3 after tallying 1:50.98. Dangol also competed in the 50y freestyle and won the event against

five others after submitting 41.52 seconds.

In another freestyle event for U8 swimmers—the 25y—Xu lorded it over 11 others. He clocked in at 19.31 seconds and was the lone swimmer to finish the race under 20 seconds. Xu prevailed against two Guam swimmers and teammates Aleksenko (21.44 seconds) and Rechucher (23.78 seconds).

After completing their individual races, Tsunami Saipan swimmers joined two relay events. Rechucher, Aleksenko, Xu, and Delen Guerrero routed Tsunami Guam's entry in the 4x25y freestyle race after registering 1:19.76 against their foes' 1:43.06. Nagata, Watanabe, Su-

zuki, and Dangol had the same event and had a faster time than Tsunami Saipan's boys team after checking in at 1:19.23.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said that the impressive performance of the club's U8 swimmers in the Guam tournament showed that they have improved significantly in the past several months.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan would like to thank Gloria Cavangh, Kan Pacific, and the Pacific Islands Club for supporting the club in its off-island tournament. Kimura also acknowledged the hospitality of Guam Swimming Federation and Tsunami Guam coach Toshi Iijima.

## CNMI

*From Page 28*

ing to have the event in the last two weeks of June.

In the bid documents, NMSA said visiting athletes will be housed at the Marianas High School and Hopwood Junior High School, while officials and VIPs will be accommodated at the Kanoa Resort.

As for the venues, the Oleai

Sports Complex will be the main headquarters and its facilities will undergo repairs and improvement in time for the Games. NMSA said the seating capacity of the stadium at the track and field facility will be expanded from 1,000 to 2,500, while the two ballfields will also undergo facelifts.

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium is the proposed venue for indoor volleyball and NMSA is expecting the gym will be

air-conditioned in time for the Games. Wrestling, weightlifting, and badminton are proposed to be staged at the TSL Sports Complex, while NMSA is hoping to secure a federal grant to build a new Olympic-standard swimming pool at the Oleai complex. The Kan Pacific Swimming Pool and the 25-meter pool being built at Saipan Southern High School are the other venues considered for swimming competitions.

Excluding the expenses for improvements of the facilities, NMSA has pegged the cost of the Games at \$1,160,000 and has identified the sources of this. Of the more than \$1-million budget for the Games, \$650,000 will come from participation fees from the 22-member council, \$250,000 may come from the government's coffers, and the remaining \$260,000 are from the private sector and sponsorships.

NMSA will not be charging per diem to delegates and instead is proposing a participation fee of \$450 per delegate for the two-week competition.

NMSA also stated in the bid documents that it will be working closely with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office to secure a temporary waiver of the visa requirement for athletes and officials participating in the Games.

## ROLLERS

*From Page 28*

with his 13 markers.

The trio teamed up in giving Rollers 2 a double-digit margin at the half, 35-24, with Fidelino making 11 points in the first half and Espinosa and Capuyon adding 10 and 8, respectively. Dream Team, which is still winless in six games, faced an 11-point deficit at the break, as only Irish Pagaraao hit more than two field goals for the team in the opening frame.

Pagaraao's teammates started to contribute in the second half, but Capuyon countered with 14 big points in the second half to keep Rollers 2's distance en route to the 8-point win. Capuyon

knocked in three triples in the second frame.

### FTMP 52, Rollers 5 33

In the other boys division match, FTMP ended a two-game slide and moved up to an even 3-3 card after routing the winless Rollers 5 (0-5).

FTMP took from right at the get-go for the easy victory. Kautong Omengkar scored 10 of his 14 points in the first period, while three other chipped in at least two baskets each to power FTMP to a 34-21 halftime advantage.

Rollers 5 never made headway in the second half to overhaul the double-digit deficit, as only Henry Yu broke into double figures for the team. Yu finished with 12 points and Rollers made only four field

goals in the second half.

### Tappers 50, Futball 46

In the girls division, Tappers barged into the win column in its last game in the double-round robin tournament after outlasting Futball.

Tappers and Futball ended the preliminary round with similar 1-5 slate, but the latter took the No. 3 spot, as it defeated the former by 7 points in the first round, 49-42. The third-ranked Futball will face the No. 1 finisher in tomorrow's semifinals, while Tappers will meet the No. 2 placer.

Hula Girls (5-0) and Wrecking Balls (4-1) battled for the top spot last night. A win over Wrecking Balls would have given Hula Girls the top ranking and a lost would have

created a tie. To win the tie, Wrecking Ball must have a winning margin of at least 5 points, as Hula Girls defeated the former in the first round by 4 points, 47-43.

Four points also separated Tappers and Futball in the penultimate game in the elimination and three of them came from the foul line. Chevy Kate Alipio canned two crucial charities, while Jomalyn Gelacio had a split. Alipio topscored for Tappers with her 27 points, matching the output of Diane Pablo for Futball.

### First Game

FTMP 52 – Omengkar 14, Montes 12, A. Francisco 6, Dantic 5, Roque 5, N. Francisco 4, Del Rosario 2, Sanarez 2.

Rollers 5 33 – Yu 14, Ogu-

mor 8, Cobacha 5, Caracut 4, Tengco 4, Mamaril 1.

**Scoring by halves:** 34-21, 51-33.

### Second Game

Tappers 50 – Alipio 27, Rogoyawa 6, Gelacio 6, Francisco 5, Bartolo 2.

**Futball 46** – Pablo 27, Castillo 14, Lee 2, Lumabi 2, Phan 1.

**Scoring by halves:** 27-21, 50-46.

### Third Game

Rollers 2 64 – Capuyon 22, Fidelino 21, Espinosa 13, Cenir 5, Vivero 3, Darag 2.

Dream Team 56 – Pagaraao 13, R. Kautz 8, Travilla 8, I. Palero 8, Javier 6, Williams 4, Castillo 3, Ito 3, M. Kautz 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 35-24, 64-56.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pt	GB
Toronto	19	17	.528	–
Brooklyn	15	22	.405	4½
New York	15	23	.395	5
Boston	13	26	.333	7½
Philadelphia	12	25	.324	7½

##### Southeast Division

Miami	27	10	.730	–
Atlanta	20	18	.526	7½
Washington	17	19	.472	9½
Charlotte	16	23	.410	12
Orlando	10	28	.263	17½

##### Central Division

Indiana	30	7	.811	–</td
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# 2013 CFLA Youth Football Warrior/Midget League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



The Eastern Lightning players and coaches pose with their championship trophy after beating the Northern Saints, 37-0, in the finals of the 2013 CFLA Youth Football Warrior/Midget League last Saturday at the Airport Field.



Lightning head coach David V. Ada Jr. acknowledges his players' efforts after receiving the championship trophy.



Northern Saints players raise their helmets to acknowledge the crowd.



Northern Saints and Eastern Lightning players and coaches shake hands after the title match.



The Lightning's Quinton Deleon Guerrero tries to keep his balance, while being tackled by a Saints defender.



The Saints' Anthony Quitugua hangs on to the ball after being held in by a Lightning defender.



Lightning quarterback Donavin Ada talks to his teammates.



Saints players get ready for the offensive play.



The Lightning's Matthew Kapileo goes for a kick.



Rain falls midway in the third quarter of the finals.



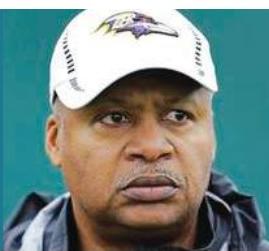
**Grizzlies beat  
Thunder 90-87 in  
Gasol's return**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Lions hire  
ex-Colts coach  
Jim Caldwell**

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**28** THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Tsunami Saipan swimmers excel



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan swimmers and coach Hiro Kimura pose for a group photo after getting awards from the Guam short course tournament last weekend in Hagatna.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**sunami Saipan swimmers made notable performances in the 2013-2014 GSF Short Course Championships last Saturday at the Hagatna Pool in Guam.

The club's U8 swimmers joined 16 individual events and placed first in 13 of them. Anthony Deleon Guerrero and Hans Xu led the squad and they went on to tie for the top honors in the boys U8 age group. In the girls division, Ashley Dangol placed second, while Nanaka Watanabe came in at third.

The visiting swimmers started their bid in the weekend meet via the 25-yard butterfly event and gained two first place finishes. Xu topped the boys U8 25y butterfly after clocking in at 21.76 seconds and beating Manukai Athletic Club's Ethan

Deeds (26.11), teammate Arman Rechucher (30.61), and Andersen Marlins-PC's Aaron Wood (33.72 seconds).

In the girls division, Dangol timed in at 24.48 seconds to finish ahead of teammates Natsuki Nagata (25.15) and Kana Suzuki (28.01). Dangol also joined the 100y freestyle and her 1:30.95 was good for second place behind Tsunami Guam's Risa Hendrix (1:29.79).

In the boys U8 100y freestyle, Deleon Guerrero downed six other swimmers. He submitted 1:23.28 to prevail against Manhoben's Israel Poppe (1:34.65)

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

**Rollers 2 moves up to solo first place**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Futball's Marlene Lumabi goes up for a layup against a Tappers defender during their first meeting in the Sun Palace caging early this month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. The two teams met anew last Monday with Tappers winning, 50-46.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rollers 2 started the second round of the boys division contest in the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament with a 64-56 win over Dream Team last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The victory improved Rollers 2's record to 6-1 and also

gave the team the solo lead over Rollers 1 (5-1) and Rollers 3 (5-1), pending the results of last night's matches.

The absence of key player Kobe Mendoza did not cause much trouble for the Rollers 2's offense, as John John Capuyon and Jun Fidelino were there to step up, scoring 22 and 21 points, respectively. Mike Espinosa also helped out See ROLLERS on Page 26

## CNMI to offer 12 sports in Mini Games 2021



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The 2012 Pacific Mini Games is heading to the CNMI and the host is offering 12 sports for the quadrennial competition.

In the bid documents the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association submitted on behalf of the CNMI to the Pacific Games Council early this month, it proposed to have tournaments in athletics, badminton, golf, tennis, canoe racing, volleyball (indoor and beach), baseball, sailing, swimming, triathlon, weightlifting, and wrestling.

Basketball, which has been a regular fixture in the Games, was excluded on the list, as the sport will have its separate regional/zone competition.

"FIBA Oceania will hold its own stand-alone tournament in 2021, in which Australia and New Zealand (they cannot participate in the Pacific Games or Mini Games) will participate.

Also, large team sports involve a large number of participants. We're already offering baseball and volleyball, and we're not sure that we have the capacity (living accommodations) to host basketball as well," NMASA president Michael White said.

The CNMI bid document was turned over last Jan. 4 and council executive director Andrew Minogue said it was the only bid that made the deadline. Minogue added in a letter to NMASA that the council will contact the CNMI for the host city contract and an evaluation visit to

Saipan. The CNMI's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games is expected to be announced officially during the council meeting in Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. It will be the first time that the Commonwealth will be hosting the Games after losing to Vanuatu in a close fight for the 2017 edition of the event and the CNMI is proposing

See CNMI on Page 26

Badminton is one of the sports the CNMI is proposing to hold for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

